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OPINION METER

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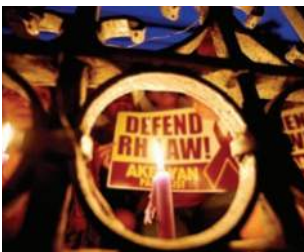
NATION



An assault weapons ban won't be in the gun-control legislation that Democrats bring to the Senate.

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ASIA



The Philippine Supreme Court temporarily halted implementation of a law that provides state funding for contraceptives.

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LIFE & STYLE



Lindsay Lohan turned herself in to police in California as a formality Tuesday.

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Inos recalls DPL secretary nomination, keeps DEQ director. PAGE 2
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'Sin' tax increases proposed

» A pack of cigarettes could cost over \$1 more if bill becomes law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Smokers, drinkers, and those who love soft drinks may see increases in the price of cigarettes, alcoholic beverages, and sodas with a new proposal to hike so-called "sin" taxes by 25 percent and 70 percent of the invoice price of these imported items, to help promote a healthy lifestyle and fund the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

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Journalism study shows impact of cutbacks in news

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Years of newsroom cutbacks have had a demonstrable impact on the quality of digital, newspaper and television news and in how consumers view that work, a study released Monday found.

Nearly one-third of consumers surveyed by the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism said they have abandoned a news outlet because it no longer gave them what they had counted on, either with fewer or less complete stories.

Pew's annual State of the News Media report delivered what has become a common litany of grim business statistics. Television news viewership is down. Newsroom employment at newspapers is down 30 per-

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RAINY DAY

Despite a gloomy and rainy afternoon, tourists get to stroll in the tourist district of Garapan yesterday afternoon. Visitors arrivals to the CNMI have been picking up for several months now, including the latest 3 percent growth in January to 39,391 compared to that of a year ago during the same month, the Marianas Visitors Authority says.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

OPA files 15 criminal charges vs Ogomoro

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor formally filed yesterday 15 criminal charges against Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogomoro in connection with his role in the alleged conspiracy to shield former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served a penal summons.



Ogomoro

OPA legal counsel and designated special prosecutor George L. Hasselback filed an information in the Superior Court on behalf of the CNMI

government over the incident between Aug. 3 and 4, 2012 when Buckingham and his wife were "escorted" from the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel to the Saipan airport.

The information charged the 54-year-old Ogomoro with eight counts of misconduct in public office.

The seven other charges include conspiracy to commit theft of services, theft of services, conspiracy to commit obstructing justice: interference with service of

process, obstructing justice: interference with service of process, conspiracy to commit obstructing justice:

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Life in Motion

Local

Inos recalls DPL secretary nomination, keeps DEQ director

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos recalled from the Senate yesterday the nomi-

nation of Pedro Itibus as Department of Public Lands secretary, while at the same time rejecting the courtesy resignation of Division of Environmental Quality

director Frank Rabauliman as the one-month-old Inos administration continues the reorganization of its Cabinet. Itibus is the current deputy

secretary of DPL. On Jan. 29, he was appointed DPL secretary, needing the Senate's advice and consent. Since then, his nomination has remained pending with

the Senate until Inos withdrew it yesterday.

In his one-page letter to Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Inos did not specify a specific reason for withdrawing Itibus' nomination.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said while the nomination has now been



Inos

vision of Environmental Quality. We sincerely appreciate your contributions and believe that

you will continue to be an asset to our administration and the people we duly serve. We will continue to expect the highest standards of public service from you and every member of our Cabinet,"

Inos said in a one-page letter to Rabauliman.

As of yesterday, the governor has yet to decide on the courtesy resignations of other Cabinet members and agency/department heads.

Inos also has yet to decide on a replacement for former Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Melvin Faisao. The governor confirmed that among the three individuals being considered is Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan). If and when Maratita gets the DCCA secretary post, a special election for Precinct 1 shall be held to fill a vacancy in the 20-member House of Representatives.

NMI welcomes appointment of Sobeck as acting Interior assistant secretary

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Inos administration welcomes President Barack Obama's decision to name Eileen Sobeck as acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior, over a month since the Feb. 1 resignation of Anthony "Tony" M. Babauta.

Obama issued a March 18 memo directing Sobeck, currently deputy assistant secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, to "perform the duties of the office of Assistant Secretary of the

Interior (Insular Areas)" effective immediately.

Interior's Office of Insular Affairs Director Nik Pula relayed Obama's memo to insular areas until the appointment and confirmation of the next Interior Assistant Secretary for the Insular Areas.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the administration values the position of an assistant secretary to oversee issues directly affecting the CNMI and other insular areas.

"Gov. Inos and Lt. Gov. Hofschneider are grateful to President Obama for his decision to ensure the continuity of such a position. While we await an official appointment from the White House, the administration is pleased to learn that Acting Assistant Secretary Sobeck will continue serving in this position.

Having previously served at the helm of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ms. Sobeck is very familiar with



Sobeck

the peculiar needs and issues of island territories like the CNMI," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

He added that the administration is confident that under Sobeck's leadership, the Interior and its OIA "will continue to be a valued partner that we can work closely with to address pressing matters in the Commonwealth."

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) earlier said the Obama administration's decision to retain the post previously held by Babauta ensures "enhanced status to island issues."



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House panel OKs resolution to have US, NMI flags flown daily at Marpi veterans cemetery

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs recommended full House adoption of a resolution requesting the Veterans Affairs Office to have U.S. and CNMI flags flown every day at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi as among lasting tributes to those who risked their lives for the country's honor and freedom.

Of the seven members of the committee chaired by Rep. Trenton Conner (IR-Tinian), only Rep. Felicidad

Ogumoro (R-Saipan) didn't sign off on the pre-filed committee report up for action in the next House session.

House Resolution 18-2, authored by Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) and co-sponsored by seven others, notes that U.S. and CNMI flags are flown at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi "only on days of special events such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day."

Deleon Guerrero, a veteran himself, said in his resolution that in other U.S. veterans cemeteries, the U.S. and respective

state flags are flown 24 hours, seven days a week "as a final and lasting memorial" to men and women who put their lives in the line of duty to defend the country's honor and freedom.

"There is no finer tribute or more appropriate final resting place for our valiant heroes than in a cemetery dedicated to them," the three-page resolution reads.

The committee, in its report, said it finds that "the U.S. and CNMI flags should be flown every day, 24 hours a day at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery located in Marpi."

"The flying of the flag dis-

In this file photo, U.S. and CNMI flags are flown during Memorial Day ceremonies in 2011 at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi. The House Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations Committee is recommending full House adoption of a resolution to have U.S. and CNMI flags flown at the Veterans Cemetery every single day as a tribute to men and women who risked their lives for the country's freedom and honor.

plays the pride that we feel for our fallen men and women. The U.S. and CNMI flags swaying high above, a symbol of their ultimate sacrifice. Therefore, the committee is in accord with the intentions of this resolution and recommend its adoption in its current form," the report says.

Lone building on Managaha under renovation

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Since February, the lone building in Managaha that houses the subcontractors of Department of Public Lands concessionaire Tasi Tours and Transportation, Inc. has been undergoing renovation and repair work.

Tasi Tours general manager David Igitol confirmed with the *Saipan Tribune* that the ongoing work on the U-shaped building began on Feb. 4 and is estimated to be completed by the end of the year.

"As the concessionaire of DPL, it is our responsibility to take care and maintain the building and Managaha," he said in a phone interview early evening yesterday.

A popular destination among tourists and residents alike, Managaha is situated right on the edge of the lagoon and is famous for its fine white sandy beaches, clear blue waters, and the many marine activities that visitors enjoy such as snorkeling and parasailing. It is the burial site of Carolinian Chief Aghurubw.

Igitol said the existing building, which was built in 1989 when Tasi Tours began managing Managaha, is the only one remaining after two other buildings in the northern part of the island were eroded.

He said Tasi Tours' subcontractors, which are all approved by DPL to conduct business ranging from food to marine sports shops, occupy the building. At present, the building accommodates a restaurant, first

aid response area, male and female bathrooms, a dive shop, an office, orientation area, and a barbecue pit.

While Tasi Tours does minor repairs on the building every year, the roof already leaks when the island experiences rain, said Igitol.

"Repair is a regular thing for us but we found out that it was going to be rather a bigger project because of the roof," he added.

Igitol disclosed that the scope of the repair work includes replacement of the old roof with tegula ceramic tiles and the expansion of the male and female bathrooms to accommodate the growing number of tourists in the Commonwealth given the additional charter flights from China and Russia.

And because the visitor arrivals are picking up, Igitol said it's business as usual for Tasi Tours and its subcontractors.

"We're working with them," said Igitol, referring to the subcontractors. "It would be difficult to close down the businesses. We've done this before so it's no big deal."

He noted that the ability of HBR International, Tasi Tours' contractor for the project, to meet the completion date would rest on factors such as weather, arrival of ships that would transport the ordered construction materials, and moving those materials to Managaha.

Igitol also revealed that Tasi Tours plans to renovate the walkway from the dock to the island.

Crisostomo pleads not guilty

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Habitual offender Joseph Acosta Crisostomo yesterday entered a not guilty plea for the kidnapping and murder of bartender Emerita Romero in February 2012.

This developed as Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho during preliminary hearing yesterday found probable cause to warrant the filing of charges against the 39-year-old Crisostomo.

Camacho found probable cause as to all charges—first degree murder, kidnapping, sexual

assault in the first degree, robbery, theft, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

After the preliminary hearing, court-appointed defense counsel Janet King agreed with Camacho to proceed with the arraignment.



Crisostomo

Crisostomo, through King, waived reading of the information and advisement of his constitutional rights. He pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Camacho set the jury trial for Oct. 7, 2013 at 9am.

At the preliminary hearing, assistant attorney general Shelli Neal called to the witness stand police detective Simon T. Ma-

nacop, who testified about their investigation into the killing of Romero that led to the serving of arrest warrant to Crisostomo on Feb. 22, 2013.

Neal said the government presented credible evidence that on Feb. 5, 2012, Crisostomo

did in fact murder Romero, whose body was found at the former La Fiesta Mall on Feb. 7, 2012.

Neal cited numerous evidence—witnesses' testimony, victim's 911 call, hair strand,

clothing fiber, DNA results, among others, that were corroborated by the autopsy and the injuries.

King argued that there is not

enough evidence to pin down Crisostomo to the murder and other charges.

King said that from the voice heard

on the 911 call, the investigators or prosecution injected their own interpretation of the event.

Camacho cited Manacop's testimony, 911 recording, DNA results, autopsy, plus other evidence that support the charges

» Judge finds probable cause to charge murder, other offenses vs defendant for killing Romero

"I'm not surprised. We worked really long and hard to put the case together," Neal said.

As to the issue of first and second degree murder charges, Neal said the judge is uncomfortable with letting the prosecution proceed with both charges.

"We are allowed to charge alternatively here. There's different ways to commit murder. Other jurisdictions have couple of other homicide charges that we don't have here," she said.

Neal said they charged Crisostomo alternatively (second degree murder), but the court was uncomfortable with that so they elect to go with the first degree murder.

"We believe that the facts of the case supports first degree murder," Neal added.

Manglona dismisses Capt. Aniceto Ogumoro's lawsuit against DPS

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday dismissed with prejudice a lawsuit filed in 2008 by police Capt. Aniceto Ogumoro against then Department of Public Safety commissioner Juan I. Wabul and other police officers.

Dismissal with prejudice means the case cannot be reopened.

Manglona told deputy attorney general Viola Alepuyo, counsel for Ogumoro when the case was filed, that the lawsuit has been pending for over four years without any activity on the docket.

Manglona said if action was taken, the case should not have reached in such situation.

At the hearing, Alepuyo sat on the plaintiff's table with Ogumoro and attorney Douglas Cushnie. On the defendant CNMI government's table were assistant attorney general Lynnette Van Wyngarden and attorney Braddock Huesman.

Huesman, who is now in private practice, used to represent the CNMI government in the case as an assistant attorney general.

Alepuyo refused to comment after the hearing.

Manglona earlier had ordered Ogumoro to show cause why this lawsuit should not be dismissed with prejudice for failure to prosecute.

In Ogumoro's respond last week, Alepuyo disclosed a yet-to-be fulfilled final item in a settlement agreement that the CNMI government entered into: the promotion of Capt. Ogumoro to the rank of major.

In her declaration filed in court, Alepuyo said when she was in private practice, she represented Ogumoro in the lawsuit filed in 2008.

Alepuyo said Ogumoro is actively seeking a private attorney who will take over representation of the case from her.

Alepuyo asked the court to allow Ogumoro additional time to secure another attorney who can represent him in the case to pursue the last remaining item in the parties' settlement agreement.

In his lawsuit, Ogumoro, through counsel Alepuyo, claimed that his arrest in 2006 was based on drummed up charges and was a conspiracy among then acting DPS commissioner Wabul and other police officers.

Ogumoro was the acting police director when police officers arrested him on Feb. 11, 2006, after they raided his house on Capital Hill where they reportedly recovered three rifles and 25 boxes of ammunition.

The Office of the Attorney General later moved to dismiss the case after the Superior Court suppressed all the evidence seized at the raid.



Manglona



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Vanuatu may open kava processing facility in China

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (Vanuatu Daily Post/PIR)—More than a decade of research and hope waiting for Europe to lift its ban on kava is now hinged on dialogue on the heels of Vanuatu's accession to the World Trade Organi-

zation (WTO).

Deputy Prime Minister Ham Lini and Minister of Trade told MPs in the 1st Ordinary Parliament Session of 2013 that his trip with a delegation (then Director of the Department of

Industry Jimmy Rantes, First Political Adviser Clifford Bice and President of Vanuatu Manufacturers and exporters association, Samuel Grant) last year to China was for "a Chinese Company to set up a factory in Vanuatu."



CEO EVALUATION

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta, second right, listens intently to the members during last Friday's board meeting where the highlight of the agenda was his performance evaluation. Babauta, after the meeting's open discussion, underwent a six-hour close-door interview by the board.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

JOURNALISM

From Page 1

cent since a peak in 2000 and has gone below 40,000 people for the first time since 1978. Newsweek shut its print edition and Time magazine is cutting staff.

"These cutbacks are real," said Amy Mitchell, the project's acting director. "And based on the data that we've collected, they are having an effect."

Government coverage on local television news has been cut in half since 2005, the study said. Sports, weather and traffic now account for 40 percent of the content on these broadcasts; yet that's just the sort of information readily available elsewhere. That's a recipe for future erosion, Mitchell said.

Forty-two percent of adults under age 30 counted themselves as regular local news viewers in 2006; last year that was down to 28 percent, the study found.

Cable news is increasingly cable talk, although it's difficult to conclude whether that is because of financial considerations or the sense among executives of what viewers want. Over

the last five years, CNN has sharply cut back on produced story packages and live event coverage, the study found.

During the presidential campaign, reporters increasingly acted as megaphones instead of investigators, Pew said. More stories are simply reporting verbatim what candidates or partisans were saying, rather than using those statements as a starting-off point to explore an issue.

There are many more places that people can go for news or information now. The question is whether consumers are leaving prominent news organizations because they are not getting what they want, or whether these outlets can no longer afford to give them more because consumers are leaving, said David Westin, former ABC News president.

"Increasingly, it's not just a question of what people want," said Westin, who presided over an era of cutbacks at ABC News. "It's what people are willing to pay for."

More organizations are experimenting with charging for digital content, which Mitchell called a positive sign. The Pew report said 450 of the nation's 1,380 daily newspapers have started or

announced plans for some kind of paid subscription model. Partly as a result, newspaper circulation stayed steady in 2012 after years of decline. Revenue continued to go down, though.

With newsroom cutbacks, some news organizations supplement their reporting through work funded through other sources, like ProPublica and the Kaiser Family Foundation's service for reporting health news. When he was at ABC, Westin said the network accepted a grant from the Gates Foundation for reporting on subjects like the water supply in Africa it otherwise would not have been able to afford.

Pew's survey of 2,000 consumers taken earlier this year revealed that a majority of people had little or no awareness that the news industry has financial problems. The people aware of the problems are the ones more likely to abandon a news outlet because they weren't getting what they wanted.

Of the people who left a news outlet, 61 percent said that the stories were less complete than they had been, Pew said.

"We are at a point where we have to get back to quality and think about what we are giving people," Mitchell said.

individual's benefit, being on notice that such actions violated provisions of the Commonwealth Criminal Code and were, therefore, illegal."

Hasselback stated in the charging information that the defendant, being a public official, conspired to knowingly obstruct, resist or oppose the service of a penal summons by the Superior Court by persons duly authorized to effectuate such service.

The special prosecutor said Ogumoro, being a public official, knowingly obstructed, resisted and/or opposed the attempted service of the court's penal summons by shielding the target (Buckingham) of the summons from attempts to serve him.

Hasselback said Ogumoro, being a public official, conspired to unlawfully resist or interfere with a law enforcement officer in the lawful pursuit of their duties, being service of the court's summons.

Hasselback said, the defendant, being a public official, unlawfully resisted and or interfered with the efforts of OPA employees in their attempts to effectuate service of the summons.

The special prosecutor said Ogumoro, as a "police officer," did not make diligent effort to serve the summons either personally or through another police officer despite having knowledge of the existence of such penal summons.

Hasselback said Ogumoro, acting in his official capacity as a management-level employee of DPS, did threaten to have arrested a particular OPA investigator if she continued in her legal efforts to serve the penal summons.

On other charges, Hasselback said Ogumoro conspired with one or more management-level persons within DPS, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, and other government agencies to provide an armed escort to Buckingham, consisting of multiple public employees driving public vehicles, being compensated pursuant to their public employment using public funds.

As to criminal coercion charge, the special prosecutor alleged that Ogumoro threatened to have arrested a particular OPA investigator if she continued in her legal efforts to serve the summons upon Buckingham.

"They will extract kavalactones to export to China so they can mix it with some of their drinks and drink it like a juice. It will have the same effect as kava."

DPM Lini was responding to a question by Pentecost MP David Tosul on the government's plans relating to Agriculture Commodity- Kava development, which has an allocation of Vt46 million [US\$494,730].

The objective of this activity is to encourage farmers to plant 10 noble varieties identified and improved processing. The focus of this activity in 2013 will be to improve quality, working through producers and associations.

"Under kava development, we recently passed an Act in Parliament to improve kava quality and said the Act was to ensure the 10 noble varieties are grown by the farmers while simultaneously tackling the Kava market in Europe," he reiterated.

"Are there some people focusing on this while we continue the push at the higher level meetings for the ban to be lifted? How many people are on the

field to ensure the farmers are planting the 10 noble varieties and at the wharves to confirm kava coming in is from these noble varieties?"

Lini who is charge of kava negotiations in Europe agreed a law has been passed by Parliament but to date it has not been properly monitored to see the actual kava variety being produced.

"While the law decreed the varieties to be planted there are buyers who say they pay for any kava variety thus it is a problem in Vanuatu.

"But we are fortunate that after Europe to Australia banned Vanuatu kava, the Australian government donated a small machine, now at the Food Centre which identifies our kava.

"Through the hard work of Dr. Vincent Lebot the machine indicates whether or not the kava is passable for export. However our problem is we mix too much kava.

"Now the government is negotiating to re-open kava market in Europe but with these problems, there is also not enough kava, an agreement is yet to be reached.

SIN

From Page 1

A pack of cigarettes, for example, could cost a smoker an additional \$1.30 or a beer can cost an extra 12 cents when wholesalers and retailers pass on to consumers the increased taxes.

These increases will be in the form of a "health care tax," which will be imposed in addition to the current excise tax on cigarettes and tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and sugar-sweetened beverages.

This early, the proposal from Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) is drawing mixed reactions.

Ogumoro's House Bill 18-34 or the Health Care Impact Tax Act is an offshoot of a bill she introduced last year but was not passed by the previous Legislature because of opposition from different sectors of the community including health advocates themselves.

The new bill's purpose is twofold: to combat the growing problem of obesity and non-communicable diseases, and provide much needed funding to CHCC.

Revenue collected under the additional taxes would be set aside and used for CHCC's debt service, inclusive of principal and interest, to the Marianas Public Land Trust. The bill says such debt includes the prior \$4.58 million loan that MPLT entered into with CHC.

John Cool, House legal counsel who reviewed HB 18-34 for legal sufficiency, said yesterday that based on their estimates, the proposed measure could result in about \$1.30 increase in excise tax for every pack of cigarettes that an importer or wholesaler brings to the CNMI. He said importers and wholesalers could then pass on to retailers and then to end-consumers these added costs.

For sugar-sweetened beverages including sodas, the added cost could be about 9 cents a can.

Cool said for alcoholic beverages, the increase could be some 12 cents per can of beer, for example.

Some smokers interviewed yesterday said if and when this proposal becomes law, it won't necessarily stop them from smoking but maybe reduce their use.

Under the bill, a health care tax at the rate of 70 percent ad valorem is assessed on all cigarettes, tobacco,

tobacco substitute, chewable tobacco products and other substance that can be smoked or snuffed.

A health care tax at the rate of 25 percent ad valorem is assessed on all sugar-sweetened beverages, the bill says.

It also imposes a health care tax at the rate of 25 percent ad valorem on all alcoholic beverages.

The tax assessed in this bill will be collected by the Division of Customs at the point of entry.

House Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan), when asked for comment on the bill, said it is something he supports if it will help fund CHC and promote a healthy lifestyle.

"Smoking and drinking are not a right but a privilege," he added.

Rep. Antonio Agulto (IR-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Health, said he has yet to see the bill, since it has not been formally introduced and referred to his committee.

Alex Sablan, president of the 160-strong Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday that the Chamber received an advance copy of the legislation days ago and discussed it at yesterday's SCC Board of Directors' meeting.

"It has been referred to our Government Relations Committee, and we have invited CHCC officials to the next committee meeting to discuss H.B. 18-34. The Chamber will then submit formal comments to the Legislature," he said.

Ogumoro's original proposal was to levy a new "fat" or "sweet" tax of 5 percent on at least 30 consumer goods, including betel nuts, candies, chocolates, ice cream and edible ice, chewing tobacco, cigarettes, malt beer, wine, soft drinks, cooking oil, and peanut butter and paste.

After taking into consideration the concerns raised last year, Ogumoro came up with a new bill that increases taxes only on cigarettes and tobacco, sugar-sweetened beverages, and alcoholic beverage.

Under the new bill, a special revenue will be established to be called the Special Health Care Impact Program or SHIP Fund, which is separate and apart from the general fund, to be used to help CHC.

There is a sunset provision for this health care impact tax. It ceases once CHC has fully paid all its obligations to MPLT.

OPA

From Page 1

interference with a law enforcement officer or witness, obstructing justice: interference with a law enforcement officer or witness, and criminal coercion.

On Monday, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman allowed Ogumoro to post a \$1,000 cash bail and \$9,000 unsecured bond.

Due to OPA's investigation plus administrative complaints filed by some employees at the Department of Public Safety against Ogumoro, DPS Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero terminated Ogumoro's contract as DPS deputy commissioner effective March 24.

With respect to the charges of misconduct in public office charge, Hasselback stated that Ogumoro, as a sworn law-enforcement officers of the CNMI, "used his influence and position to conspire with one or more persons to see that services over which they had control but to which a particular individual was not entitled were diverted to that

Sen. Ayuyu appears in court for his 3rd criminal case

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (R-Rota) was taken yesterday in federal court for his initial court appearance in connection with the third criminal case filed against him over an incident last January in which he was allegedly found in possession of a cell phone while being detained at the Department of Corrections in Susupe.



Ayuyu

strict Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona informed Ayuyu that she is appointing a conflict-free counsel for him.

Attorney Victorino Torres appeared in court for the defendant. Victorino Torres' brother, Joaquin Torres, is counsel for Ayuyu in two separate criminal cases.

Arraignment will be on Friday.

Manglona told Ayuyu about a sealed document that he needs to review.

Torres said they received the document and that they discussed partly its substance.

The latest information charged the 48-year-old Ayuyu with one count of possessing a phone in a federal correctional

or detention facility.

According to the charging document filed by assistant U.S. attorney Garth R. Backe, on Jan. 15, 2013, Ayuyu, being an inmate of a prison, was "found to be in possession of a phone

or other device used by a user of commercial service."

Ayuyu is facing criminal charges in two other indictments over an alleged conspiracy to smuggle eight dead Mariana fruit bats from Rota to Saipan

in October 2010, concealing the fruit bats inside a cardboard box beneath 40 lbs of lemons. A joint jury trial in the two cases will be on April 1, 2013.

Ayuyu has been in detention since Dec. 17, 2012.

DFS Earth Week to end with Earth Hour this Saturday

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

DFS Galleria Saipan, the islands' only luxury retail conglomerate, is going green this week with a series of activities in observance of a company initiative called Saipan Earth Week.

Saipan Earth Week is DFS Galleria Saipan's way of creating an impactful message and getting involved in making a difference locally in creating and promoting a more sustainable and clean environment.

Marian Aldan-Pierce, DFS Saipan Limited president, said in a statement that Saipan Earth Week will feature activities "designed to engage and inspire our team and customers around the common message of protecting our planet and protecting the paradise that is Saipan."

The lined up activities, she added, came from employees themselves who gave suggestions and shared ideas during their daily pep-talks.

The weeklong celebration kicked off Monday, March 18, with a Team Beach and Trail Cleanup, with staffers picking up trash and making sure it was appropriately separated for recycling.

Tuesday was "Waste not, want not" day as team members distributed reusable chopsticks and eco bags for shopping. Employees were also encouraged to bring lunch to work and unused clothing for donation to a local charity.

Yesterday, March 20, employees were encouraged to carpool for the day and to go paperless by having all printers disconnected for the "Take your foot off the gas and your finger off the print key."

Today is "More trees, please!" day, which will have DFS team members will take part in weeding efforts in Marpi and encourage tree growth.

On Friday, facilities manager Mark Moss will talk to the media regarding DFS' reverse osmosis system, self-generated electricity, and energy-saving initiatives. Additionally, it's "Team Cycling Day" and inter-

ested employees can participate in a 20K cycling route along Beach Road to celebrate use of less gas, encourage alternative mode of transportation, and appreciate the island's clean and crisp air.

Saipan Earth Week will culminate tomorrow, March 23, with DFS employees, customers, and guests to support Earth Hour 2013. A disc jockey will lead participants in a group electric slide line-dance at the main entrance of the Garapan retail store, then the exterior lighting will be shut down for about an hour starting at 8:30pm, joining thousands of cities and towns across 152 countries and territories in a quest to send "a powerful message for action to save the planet."

Saturday's event will also feature educational videos and discussions.

Throughout its 52-year history, DFS Group has supported charitable foundations at international and local levels. On Saipan, the company has been instrumental in organizing a number of events and charitable activities such as the annual Tournament of Champion, annual Tom Picarro Silver Streak Run, aid stations at XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman triathlons, and the sponsorship with the Marianas March Against Cancer.



Man'amko enjoy tai chi lessons

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The island's elderly learn about tai chi at the Aging Center.

Clients at the Aging Center pose for a group photo following Tuesday pool tournament "redemption" game.

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tai chi has become one of the more favorite forms of exercise for clients at the Aging Center, according to program coordinator Walter Manglona.

An ancient Chinese martial art, tai chi has evolved over the years and is considered nowadays as a form of exercise that gives many health benefits.

Manglona said the man'amko' enjoy tai chi because it helps them feel relaxed and stay focused.

He said the island's elderly learn about tai chi movements at the center through Dr. John who conducts the "slow yet powerful" movements that tap into the clients' minds and help them alleviate any pain or problems they have in life.

Manglona said tai chi will be one of the many activities that they have planned to encourage the man'amko to go out more often and be healthy as they anticipate the Older Americans Month celebration in May.

This year's theme is "Unleash the Power of Age," and Manglona said the seniors will participate in events such as ground golf, softball, school tutorials, and water therapy.

"I think our man'amko are getting younger everyday and I really do enjoy having the privilege of providing activities for them to help improve their health," he added.

On Tuesday, the clients had their pool tournament "redemption" activity that saw eight players competing for the chance to win bragging rights over their opponents.

Last week's defending champion, Lito Asuncion, had a tough match with Kimo Jordan who ended up winning in the exciting rematch.

"The clients were screaming and cheering for their fellow man'amko," said Manglona.

Besides Asuncion and Jordan, other participants were Ann M. Perry, Meryalen Conrad, Leonides Marinas, Pedro Dela Cruz, Orlando Gondayo, and Vicente Laniyo.

"Lito Asuncion can't wait until next week to have the chance to win his title back," Manglona added.

While this week's winner and participants did not receive any prizes, Manglona noted that the "biggest prizes" such as trophies and other exciting giveaways await the tournament winners to be held during the observance of Older Americans Month.

For more information, call Aging Center at 233-1320 or 21.

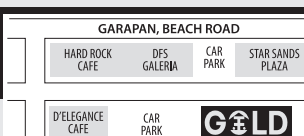
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DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on **March 21**, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before **March 21**.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE

You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than **March 21**. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service, Please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or Visit any IT&E CS Center nearest you.



To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:

SHELL Service Stations — up to 4:00pm
Chalan Lamlau — up to 6:00pm
Tinian/Rota Office — up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza — up to 6:00pm
Online payment — up to 9:00pm

PSS teachers equipped to teach digital natives

Meaningful integration of technology into the classroom and programs remains a vital part of the CNMI Public School System Technology Plan.

As PSS moves to prepare students for 21st century learning, it is important that teachers are provided with opportunities to acquire technology skills and

transfer what they learn into the classroom so that students will benefit from that knowledge.

This school year, a cohort of 30 PSS teachers and administrative staff embarked on a new journey. Participants have just completed their third instructional technology endorsement course.

This month, they are about to take their qualification exams with the Google Internet Testing Center to become qualified Google Education Application trainers. Many of the participants have been sharing what they learn with fellow co-workers and their students. You'll also find

them tweeting and blogging their digital finds and resources. Not only are they provided training, they were also equipped with tools they can use in their school and programs (as pictured).

Funded by the T&FASEG Program, and through collaboration with the Instructional

Technology Program, the goal of the endorsement in Instructional Technology is to: (1) Build capacity in instructional technology from within and expand outward to reach all teachers and administrative leaders. (2) To improve student academic achievement and teacher effectiveness through the use of high quality digital tools and materials.

By the end of this school year,

all of the endorsed Instructional Technology cohort participants would have demonstrated at least 30 percent of the Instructional Technology applications as measured by the Power Walkthrough Reports.

PSS staff interested in joining next school year's cohort can get more information at www.goo.gl/jk9Ta or by contacting Jeaniffer Cubangbang and Lynette Villagomez. (PR)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The teachers and administrative staff taking part in the instructional technology endorsement course of Public School System Technology Plan pose for a group photo.



Preventing underage drinking in *John Gonzales Live*

A panel discussion on enforcing underage drinking laws, or EUDL, will be featured in tomorrow's *John Gonzales Live*.

The panel will be made up of youths speaking out against underage drinking and substance abuse in the CNMI.

Aside from March 22's live broadcast, tomorrow's *John Gonzales Live* program will be replayed next week on March 25 (Monday) and 26 (Tuesday).

John Gonzales Live airs

weekly live and rebroadcasts on Monday and Tuesday the following week all from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on MCV Channel 14.

John Gonzales Live also rebroadcasts worldwide on the web to global Internet radio listening audience on Betelnut Radio (www.betelnutradio.com).

Viewers can participate by calling (287-4230), texting (285-META) (6382), or emailing johngonzaleslive@gmail.com. (PR)

Guam legislative staffers test neg for drugs

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Several Guam legislative staffers have been tested for drug use.

The *Pacific Daily News* reports that legislative staffers for Speaker Judith Won Pat and Vice Speaker Benjamin Cruz underwent drug testing. Their offices say they tested drug-free. Cruz also tested negative for drugs.

Won Pat and Cruz's staff-

ers were tested for a variety of drugs. The tests comes after Chris Carillo, a former staffer at Cruz' office, was arrested for alleged drug possession in late February.

Drug tests currently are not a condition of employment at the Legislature for either employees or senators, but Won Pat would like to change that.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-COTA/FTA-093**

SUBMISSION: APRIL 19, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SAIPAN FIXED-FLEX ROUTE AND PARA-TRANSIT SYSTEM FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE CNMI, A PROJECT UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY (COTA)"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **MARCH 14, 2013** AT COTA, OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, 1ST FLOOR, HON. JUAN A. SABLAN MEMORIAL BUILDING, ISADRIE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN. A NON-REFUNDABLE PAYMENT OF **FIFTY DOLLARS USD (\$50.00)** IS REQUIRED FOR EACH SET. PAYMENT MUST BE MADE TO THE CNMI TREASURER AND A RECEIPT OF PAYMENT MUST BE PRESENTED WHEN OBTAINING THE SCOPE OF WORK AT THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR **APRIL 04, 2013 AT 9:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME** AT THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY'S CONFERENCE ROOM 1ST FLOOR, HON. JUAN A. SABLAN MEMORIAL BUILDING.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. VINCE C. MERFALEN, MOBILITY & TRANSIT COORDINATOR OR FAXED TO (670) 664-2211 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **APRIL 10, 2013**.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL IF, IN ITS OPINION TO DO SO, WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ THOMAS J. CAMACHO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**Department of Finance
Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government**

ADDENDUM NO. 1

RFP13-COTA/FTA-093

**"SAIPAN FIXED-FLEX ROUTE AND PARA-TRANSIT SYSTEM
FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE CNMI, A PROJECT UNDER THE
COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"**

This addendum is issued to change the following:

- To delete the non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars USD (\$50.00) required to obtain the RFP packet.

All else remain the same.

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, Procurement and Supply

March 21, 2013

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
 Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-017

Supply and Delivery of Materials and Tools for CUC Water Well Upgrade Project

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of materials and tools for CUC water well upgrade project in Obyan and Koblerville, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Supply and delivery of materials and tools for CUC water wells upgrade project, Obyan and Koblerville, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 23, 2013**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Form. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 8, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, Water/Wastewater, Chief Engineer via email john.riegel@cucgov.org and Robert Malate, Water/Wastewater, Engineer via email robert.malate@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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INVITATION FOR BIDS
This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.
NMHC IFB 2013-002
Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Friday, March 22, 2013, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office on **Friday, March 29, 2013, at 9:00 a.m.**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to the NMHC Corporate Director at P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 9:00 a.m., Monday, April 1, 2013.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-IFB 2013-002**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m., local time Thursday, April 11, 2013**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Thursday, April 11, 2013**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **Thursday, April 11, 2013**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **Thursday, April 18, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **10:30 a.m., local time, Friday, April 19, 2013**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time on Thursday, April 11, 2013**.

All labor on this project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$5.55 per hour which took effect on October 1, 2012 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of \$.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor, whichever is higher.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Saipan.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

2013 MARIANAS MARCH AGAINST CANCER

Title sponsorship more personal for Palacios

New distribution center, corporate offices for Guam-based company

BARRIGADA, Guam—Several of Guam’s most popular and favorite brands have a new home in Barrigada.

Foremost Foods, Inc., Coca-Cola Beverage (Guam), Co., Subway Restaurants, and Glimpses of Guam (Advertising and Publications) have moved in to their new office and warehouse facility and will hold the official grand opening on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at 10am.

The 68,000-square-foot facility is 60-percent larger than the companies’ former location in Upper Tumon and was designed and built with growth in mind, allowing for greater capacity to bring in a wider range of products for consumers. The new facility includes 20,000 square feet of office space for the headquarters and Guam-based companies, as well as 13,000 square feet of cold storage and 35,000 square feet of dry warehouse space. The Upper Tumon location is still being used for locally produced Foremost products, like ice, water, ice cream and more.

The more spacious dry warehouse area holds up to 50 containers worth of product and the

cold storage can store up to 700 pallets of product. Productivity has increased in the new facility by giving Coca-Cola and Foremost more staging area, additional loading space, an organized racking system for storage, a modernized loading dock, and a centralized location for distribution.

The new facility, built by contractor Base Corp and engineer/designer EMPSCO, has specific sustainability features that are environmentally friendly and economically beneficial. Rainwater is collected and used to flush all toilets, lights in the restrooms are equipped with motion sensor timers, and the parking lights all feature photocell control that are light sensitive and trigger when evening skies begin to darken. All lights feature energy-saving bulbs. Chilled and frozen products are protected by a 35 KVA backup generator, to ensure the quality is never compromised.

All four companies are now located under the same roof. The company phone numbers will remain the same and the new facility is currently operational.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sorensen Media Saipan’s support for the 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer is more personal and meaningful for general manager Tina B. Palacios, whose family members passed on or are still battling cancer.

Palacios said yesterday that her two brothers and a cousin were stricken with different types of cancer and are getting treatment in Guam.

With many families in the islands going through the same situation, Palacios expressed hope that cancer patients in the CNMI would be able to receive the needed medical services within the Commonwealth.

Sorensen Media Saipan will be running MMAC advertisements on its two radio stations, The Kat 97.9 and Power 99, as well as their television station, ABC7 Saipan, in support of the largest annual fundraising event in the fight against cancer.

Sorensen Media Saipan is part of the Sorensen Media Group, a privately held media and entertainment conglomerate headquartered in Guam. It is the leading broadcast company in the Western Pacific with holdings in television, radio and Internet programming, development, produc-



Marianas March Against Cancer Committee members and Commonwealth Cancer Association representatives join the Sorensen Media Saipan staff for a photo at the broadcasting company’s Garapan office on Wednesday.

tion, and broadcasting.

Palacios said the radio ads will have three different formats that will be run at least a dozen times daily until the actual event. The TV ads, meanwhile, are still being conceptualized.

The ad donation is estimated to cost about \$6,000, making Sorensen Media Group a title sponsor for MMAC. Title sponsorship is considered the event’s highest level of sponsorship and is given to companies or individuals that donate \$3,000 or more in cash, products or services.

Palacios said Sorensen Media Saipan, which has been around for more than two decades, has been a supporter of MMAC back when it was still called Relay for Life.


“As long as MMAC is around and they need our assistance and help, we’ll always be here to help them,” said Palacios in an interview at their office in Garapan following the formal announcement of their contribution.

MMAC committee members welcomed the event’s newest sponsor. Overall committee

chair Manny Borja said they are happy to have Sorensen Media Saipan’s support for the signature fundraising activity of non-profit group Commonwealth Cancer Association.

“Their advertisements are very instrumental because they help get the word out to the community regarding MMAC,” Borja told *Saipan Tribune*.

For more information, visit www.ccamarianas.org, email cca@ccamarianas.org or manuel.borja@gmail.com, or call 682-0050.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM- OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP13-GOV-088

Architectural & Engineering Design Services for the Tinian Health Center Repairs, Renovations and Improvements

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider through the Capital Improvement Office, is soliciting sealed proposals for the Architectural and Engineering Design Services for the Repairs Renovation and Improvements of the Tinian Health Center, San Jose Village, Tinian MP, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with NMIC Section 70-30.3-305.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have obtained a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing.

The Scope of Work (SOW) will be available on March 15, 2013 at the Capital Improvement Office, Office of the Governor. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment be presented when obtaining the package. A Pre-Proposal Meeting is scheduled on at the Governor's Office, Capitol Hill, Saipan on March 21, 2013 at 9:00 a.m at the Governor's Conference Room. The project completion time for this project is 90 calendar days. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia, P.E., Project Manager at fax no. (670) 664-2408 or via email at balajadiaelizabeth@hotmail.com no later than Thursday, April 4, 2013, 4:30 p.m., local time.

Proposals shall not exceed twenty five (25) pages. Note that a firm or company that submits as a prime consultant cannot submit as a subconsultant on another proposal. However, subconsultants may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualification and Experience on similar projects (25%)
2. Project Approach (25%)
3. Work load and resources to accomplish the work in the required time frame (25%)
4. Past performance with the CNMI Government on similar projects (25%)

Proposals must be sealed and marked by April 15, 2013. For proposals within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than April 15, 2013. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitted an Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to submit proposal must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 4:30 p.m., April 15, 2013, local time, and may be submitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@picom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be marked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal services of the foreign country no later than April 15, 2013 AND must be received no later than April 23, 2013. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.


The successful proposer(s) will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement and Supply Regulations Section 3-301.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.


The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Division of Historic Preservation
Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
P.O. Box 500090 CK, Airport Road
Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC NOTICE

Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
Division of Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Fund Grant
Proposed Work Goals for FY 2013

The Division of Historic Preservation (HPO) under the auspices of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, anticipates the receipt of approximately \$362,198 from the U.S. National Park Service for Fiscal Year 2013. This funding is provided to support the Commonwealth’s Historic Preservation program and related community activities.

Prior to finalizing the grant package, the Historic Preservation Office would like to solicit the community’s input or comments on what priorities and activities it should further undertake to enhance or strengthen its program. The following are examples of work goals that are proposed for FY2013 grant cycle:

- Employing six full-time staff for the Saipan, Tinian and Rota Offices
- Contract two required positions to meet the Secretary’s Professional Qualifications Standards for history and for historic or prehistoric archeology.
- Nominating significant sites to the National Register of Historic Places
- Upgrading professional skills of the field personnel on Saipan, Tinian and Rota
- Continue to publish the results of archaeological & historical research
- Conducting a required inventory assessment project
- Conducting one required survey and inventory on Saipan, Rota and Tinian
- Conducting lectures at Commonwealth schools and arranging for fieldtrips to archaeological and historical sites
- Partner with MARC on exploration of Northern Islands surveys

Interested individuals are invited to submit their comments to the HPO in writing no later than March 27, 2013. Written comments should be address to Laura T. Ogumoro, Acting CNMI State Historic Preservation Officer, P.O. Box 500090 CK, Saipan, MP 96950. It may also be faxed to our office at 664-2139 or sent through e-mail to dyssup@gmail.com. Please visit our office located on Airport Road, between the former MVA Office and the LSG Building should you have any questions.

In addition to submitted written comments, our office would also like to undertake a formal public hearing to listen to your concerns and ideas about the historic preservation grant and possible projects or activities. The following is a schedule in this effect:

Island	Location	Date	Time
Rota	Round House	March 21, 2013	6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Tinian	Mayor’s Conference Room	March 21, 2013	6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Saipan	Multipurpose	March 22, 2013	6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. We look forward to hearing your comments and ideas. Your input and participation is extremely valuable.

/s/ Laura T. Ogumoro
Acting Secretary, Community & Cultural Affairs

JSA scholarships available to HS students

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Junior Statesmen Foundation has announced that Dr. Stephen Maynard Caliendo, a professor at the Junior Statesmen Summer School, is visiting the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands until March 24 to meet with students interested in applying for one of four scholarships to the JSA Summer School. These scholarships are funded by Congress and administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

"Each year, we have dozens of very strong applicants for these scholarships, which makes the selection process very difficult," says Dr. Caliendo. "The students chosen to participate are among the best and brightest in CNMI and will most likely be future leaders their communities," he continued, "I'm looking forward to meeting all those interested in these outstanding educational programs, as well as reconnecting with all of the JSA Summer School alumni in the CNMI."

Caliendo will meet with prospective students for 15-minute

interviews after school each day, as well as Saturday morning, at Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan's Saipan district office. Students interested in scheduling a meeting should contact Antoinette Camacho at the Congressman's office at 670-323-2647.

Sablan reiterated his support for the JSA Summer Programs, as well as other JSA initiatives such as the JSA Winter Congress program. "It is critical to our future success that we build local capacity and encourage our young people to develop the skills they will need to be our community leaders one day."

"The funding that Congress appropriates for the JSA scholarships is especially important to students from Northern Mariana Islands, because it costs so much for our students to travel to participate in this program."

There are four scholarships available to students from the Northern Marianas to attend one of the JSA's Summer Schools at Stanford, Princeton or Georgetown Universities on the U.S. mainland. Four ad-

ditional scholarships are available for students to attend the JSA Diplomat Program, which is held at Capital Normal University in Beijing, China; however, competition for those four scholarships is among students from all of the U.S. territories. More information is available at www.jsa.org at the link for Summer Programs.

Each scholarship winner will receive a full scholarship of approximately \$7,000 to pay for any tuition costs related to attending one of JSA's summer schools. The scholarships are made possible due to the Junior State's more than 20-year partnership with The U.S. Department of the Interior. Students who demonstrate high-achieving grades, strong leadership skills, involvement in the community, and an interest in public service are strongly encouraged to apply for the scholarships.

In addition to visiting schools and meeting students interested in applying for the scholarships, as well as with JSA Summer Program alumni, Caliendo will also reach out

to government and community leaders who might be interested in offering support to enable additional students to participate in the program.

Since 1991, the Junior Statesmen Foundation has worked in a partnership with The U.S. Department of the Interior to identify, educate, and train over 1,700 outstanding high school students in insular areas for active, effective, and ethical participation in public affairs. The Junior Statesmen Summer School Program builds leadership skills and confidence on the next generation of insular leaders.

The Junior Statesmen Summer Schools feature college-level courses in American Government, American History, International Relations, Constitutional Law, Economics, U.S. Foreign Policy, Media and Politics, Speech and Political Communication, and the American Presidency.

For more information, or if you are interested in donating for scholarships, please contact Larry Guillemette, Chief Academic and Outreach Officer at 202-591-3728 or via email at lguillemette@jsa.org. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 21, 2004

Funding OK'd for fishing derby, JSA, Lib Day

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed on Friday an appropriation measure dividing \$165,000 among two major events and the Junior Statesmen of America Program. Members of the local delegation approved \$40,000 for the 20th Saipan International Fishing Derby, \$50,000 to subsidize local students' participation in the JSA program, and \$75,000 for the 2004 Liberation Day festivities. The appropriation measure or House Local Bill 14-9, offered by Rep. Arnold I. Palacios, was unanimously supported by SNILD members during a session Friday afternoon. Prior to the bill's passage, SNILD members listened to Insular Affairs Field Rep. Jeff Schorr and JSA Program contact person Karen Prosser elaborate on the summer school program, which provides students across the nation with the opportunity to participate in political activities.

Funding OK'd for fishing derby, JSA, Lib Day

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed on Friday an appropriation measure dividing \$165,000 among two major events and the Junior Statesmen of America Program. Members of the local delegation approved \$40,000 for the 20th Saipan International Fishing Derby, \$50,000 to subsidize local students' participation in the JSA program, and \$75,000 for the 2004 Liberation Day festivities. The appropriation measure or House Local Bill 14-9, offered by Rep. Arnold I. Palacios, was unanimously supported by SNILD members during a session Friday afternoon.

Mar. 21, 2005

House OKs \$11M for with-in-grade increases, retro pay

The House of Representatives has unanimously approved a \$10.9 million appropriation for fiscal year 2005 to raise government employees' salary, pay off retroactive compensation, as well as retirement and health insurance contribution. Authored by Rep. Jesus Attao, House Bill 14-304 aims to allocate \$10.9 million to settle "unpaid frozen steps, with-in-grade increases and retroactive adjustments" for the last five years and 14 years, respectively. Attao said "it is only fair and appropriate for the government to settle the long overdue payments so that former and current employees can enjoy their rightful salary and to avoid any litigation."

PBDC gets \$250K from feds

The Pacific Basin Development Council has received \$250,000 "mission" grant from the Department of the Interior. In a March 11 letter to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, who is the president of PBDC, DOI acting deputy assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula said that the department could not give financial assistance for the regional body's endowment fund as it is prohibited under federal regulations. "However, we are pleased to provide \$250,000 to support PBDC's mission," said Pula. He said it is allowed under Public Law 108-188, which provides that "sufficient funds shall be made available for a grant to the PBDC."

Mar. 21, 2006

King-Hinds: I will resign post as regent

Northern Marianas College Board of Regents chairwoman Kimberly King-Hinds may not renew her term as regent next school year, as she is planning to take up graduate studies in the U.S. mainland. King-Hinds confirmed yesterday that she has been applying for graduate studies with several universities and colleges in the United States. She said it's about time that she upgrades and updates her skills and knowledge in the field of her choice. The BOR chair said she has already told her fellow board officers and members of her intention. "But no one is taking me seriously," she said, adding that she really is serious about her plans, which might push through before the summer ends this year.

Judge raise Elyeisar bail to \$10,000 cash

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman increased by 10 times the bail amount that he earlier imposed for the temporary release of Akilino P. Elyeisar. Wiseman modified the bail from \$1,000 to \$10,000 after the CNMI government, represented by assistant attorney general Kevin Lynch, moved to increase the bail on the ground that Elyeisar had two felony convictions. In granting the government's request, the judge said the court believes that the defendant poses a danger to the community. Besides the aggravated assault and battery conviction, Wiseman noted that Elyeisar's 1995 conviction for illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition case was also serious.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

JKPL rummage sale this Saturday

The Joeten Kiyu Public Library will be holding a rummage sale this Saturday, March 23, from 7:30am to 1pm at its parking lot.

For more information, call 235-7322/7323.

MMAC team captains meeting today

The 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer committee will be holding a team captains meeting today, March 21, beginning 5:30pm at the DFS Galleria conference room in Garapan (second floor). All 2013 teams are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

"The MMAC committee looks forward to seeing all team captains on Thursday. If you were unable to attend the previous meeting, please be sure to attend this team meeting where vital information will be discussed," said 2013 MMAC team recruitment committee chair Catherine Attao-Toves.

"We'd like to remind all teams that there are two important deadlines coming up: early bird registration and T-shirt orders. If your team pays their registration fee by March 21 you will receive a \$100 discount off the registration price. Teams who pay their fee get to reserve their tent spots with MMAC logistics committee chair Vynicia Seman. We encourage teams to take advantage of this special offer," said Attao-Toves.

"Also, March 21 is the deadline to submit your T-shirt order form and payment. If teams have questions on T-shirts please contact MMAC T-shirt committee chair Janine Nogis who can be reached via email at janine.nogis@gmail.com," said

Attao-Toves.

The 2013 MMAC will be held from 6pm to 6am on April 26-27 at Hopwood Junior High School in Chalan Piao. The 2013 MMAC is brought to you by title sponsors Delta Air Lines, DFS Saipan, Ltd., IT&E, Joeten Charitable Foundation, *Marianas Variety*, Sorensen Media Group, and Take Care/FHP.

Special thanks to major sponsors Brabu Pharmacy, Docomo Pacific, Hopwood Junior High School, McDonald's of Saipan, PHI Pharmacy, and Traders Insurance Co. For more information call 989-1987, email emanuel.borja@gmail.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org. (MMAC)

Climate Change Working Group meeting today

The CNMI Climate Change Working Group will be holding a quarterly meeting and workshop today, March 21, from 9am to 11:30am.

The meeting will be held at the Napu Room of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

This will be an exciting, interactive meeting in which we will be mapping Saipan's vulnerabilities to climate change impacts. This is a great opportunity for you to contribute your knowledge of the villages, schools, beaches, and various other resources of Saipan to an important assessment.

The meeting will bring together all of the previous work of the CCWG and climate change trainings from the past six months, and the outcome will be an in-depth map that tells the story of Saipan's exposure and sensitivity to climate impacts.

Please feel free to invite other

individuals or groups that may have expert knowledge related to Saipan's natural or socioeconomic resources and infrastructure.

To stay up to date on all CCWG meetings and activities, visit the CCWG website at www.ClimateCNMI.net, or contact Robbie Greene at RobertGreene.CRM@gmail.com. (PR)

Palauan Youth Day this Saturday

The Palauan Community Association would like to invite all youth ages 8-18 to for the Annual Youth Day on Saturday, March 23, at the Minachom Atdao from 9am to 5pm for some activities.

This request is coming from a non-profit organization called Palau Community Association with Palau Youth officers and their advisers. Should you have any questions call Felisa Brel at 237-3296 or 788-8115/ email felisa.brel@cnmipss.org, or call call Rufino Agoun at NMC or Bernice Ravell at 256-3327. (PR)

Āmot Mākpung Āmku' yan Āmot Tininu available at cultural center

The Inetnon Āmot yan Kuturan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Falūw is happy to announce that ready to be boiled, packaged Āmot Mākpung Āmku' yan Āmot Tininu is available at the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center at 1213 in Capitol Hill Road., across from the Workforce Investment Agency and next to the CNMI Board of Parole Office. A \$10 donation per package is accepted. The office hours are Monday to Friday, from 10am to 5pm. For more

information, call 322-0278. Si Yu'us ma'āsi'. (PR)

UOG to host Marianas History Conference

The 2013 Marianas History Conference, "One Archipelago, Many Stories: Integrating Our Narratives," will be held in Guam on Aug. 30-31, 2013. Abstracts for papers and posters may be submitted at guampedia.com by April 3, 2013. The Guampedia website also accepts conference registration with an early registration fee of \$25 or \$10 for students with a valid ID. The number of registrants will be capped at 220. Late registration is \$40.

For more information, visit www.guampedia.com/the-2nd-marianas-history-conference, or contact Dr. Anne Perez Hattori (ahattori@uguam.uog.edu) or Dr. Michael Clement (mclement@uguam.uog.edu). (UOG)

MHS calendar of events

- March 21: Early dismissal at 12pm
- March 21: Graduating seniors, last day to pay for at least half of your cap and gown orders
- March 22: No classes; state level professional development
- March 25-29: Spring break (no classes)
- April 1: Students back to school

In addition, on a daily basis, students are encouraged to leave campus as soon as possible unless they are here for teacher-sanctioned activities such as club meetings, after-school class, and sports practice. For safety reasons, students are not allowed to hang out on campus after 4:30pm.

If you have any questions, call the Main Office at 237-3206. (PR)

Island Snapshots



TEMPORARY RELEASE FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro, left, emerges from the courtroom with his counsel, attorney Douglas Cushnie, after Monday's hearing in Superior Court. Judge David Wiseman allowed Ogumoro to post \$1,000 cash bail for his temporary release.

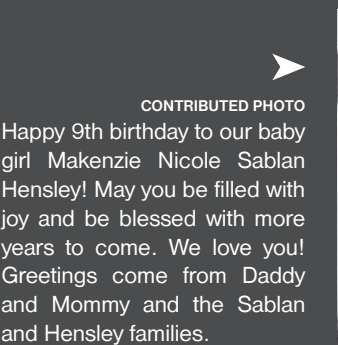


HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy wedding anniversary Grandma and Grandpa Luis and Patricia Reyes. On your anniversary, we wish that your marriage is blessed with everlasting love, togetherness, and happiness. Have a memorable anniversary celebration! Loving you always your lil' munchkins Kyleeah, Zayne, Logan, Joe, Tricia, Kirida, Keo, Beng, Louie, LRock, Jayboy, Boom, and Luther.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday to Kimberly Indalecio, who celebrates her special day today, March 21, 2013. Enjoy your day and take it easy! May God bless you with many more birthdays to come! Greetings come from Jun and Aggy.

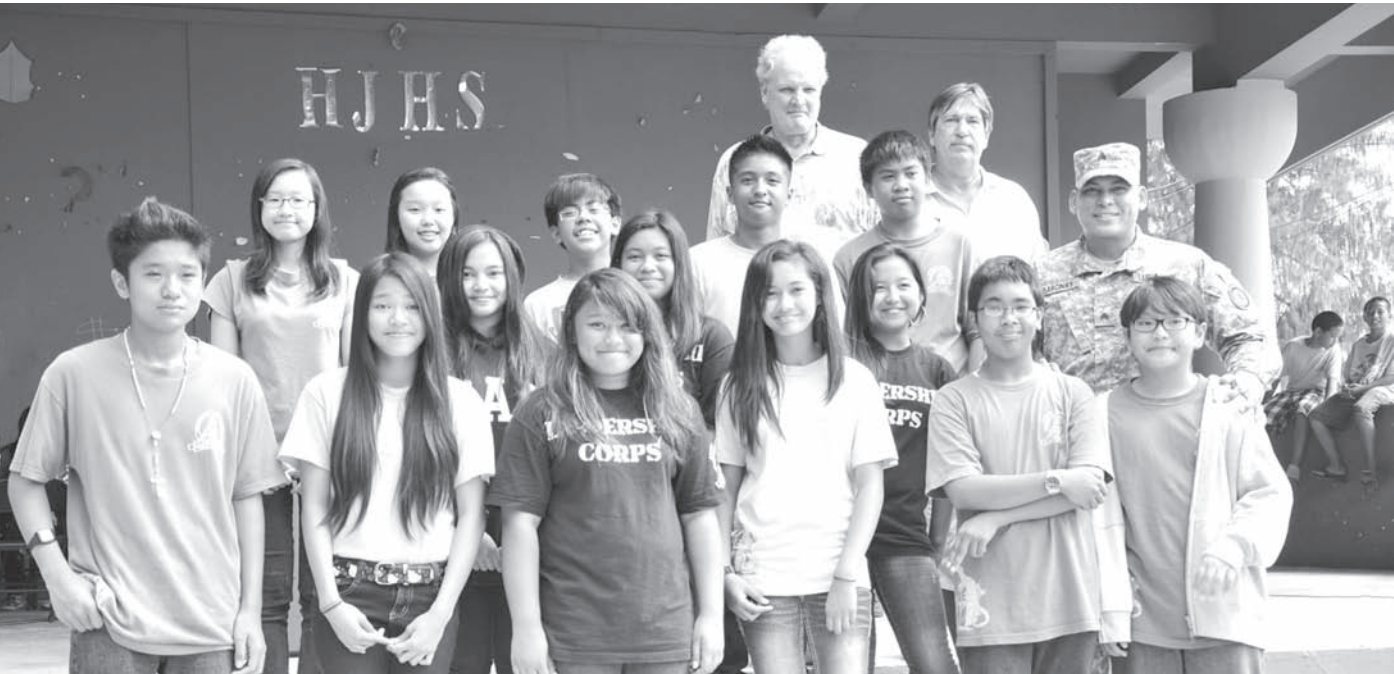


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy 9th birthday to our baby girl Makenzie Nicole Sablan Hensley! May you be filled with joy and be blessed with more years to come. We love you! Greetings come from Daddy and Mommy and the Sablan and Hensley families.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Belated happy birthday to our youngest sister, aunt, and daughter Cathrine Joice D. Biado, who celebrated her special day on Mar. 20, 2013! Wishing you more birthdays in life to share with us. Enjoy your day and God bless! Hugs and kisses from Mom, Dad, sisters, My, Kai, and Kuya.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy second birthday to our wonderful and cute baby, Francheska Nikkole D. Biado, who is celebrating her birthday today, March 21, 2013! Stay sweet and smart. We love you and may you have many more birthdays to come. Greetings come from Grandmom and Dad, Mom, aunts, uncle, and Mymy.



HOPWOOD ACHIEVERS CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
The Hopwood Jr./High School Junior Mock Trial Team poses for a group photo. Hopwood has been participating in the annual Mock Trial Competition at the Superior Court or Supreme Court for the past several years. Hopwood is wishing the team good luck in the competitions set for April 6, 2003. The school is also extending its thanks to coaches Ron Hodges and James Phillips for taking the lead in training the team.



◀ Congratulations to all of Hopwood Junior High School winners at the 2013 PSS StateWide STEM Fair at the MHS Gym. The winners at this year's island-wide stem fair are Ann Margaret Norcio, 1st place; Miguel Aninon, 2nd place; and Edgar Rangamar, 3rd place. Many thanks to the science department's Victor Borja, Shar Crisostomo, Ben Seman, Roque Indelacio, Frankie Angel, and Norman Leon Guerrero for their coordination on the school level competition.



▶ Hopwood Junior High School's Academic Challenge Bowl Team pose for a photo. Hopwood students competed and placed runner-up for the past two years in the PSS state level competition and this year the team came away with the third place plum.



▶ **DELTA DONATES TO GO KART CHAMPIONSHIP**
Board members of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands receive a roundtrip ticket for any Delta Air Lines destination in the U.S. as part of Delta's Major sponsorship of the Inaugural Budweiser Go Kart Championship on April 6, 2013, at Mariana Seaside Circuit. Raffle tickets will be sold during the daylong event for \$1. Pictured from left are Delta Inside Sales representative Chris A. Concepcion, HANMI board member Abner Acosta, HANMI vice chair Gloria Cavanagh, HANMI board secretary Hiroki Sugie, and Delta Inside Sales representative Esther F. Sound.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The growing need for missile defense

Decades ago, in the scariest days of the nuclear arms race with Russia, American schoolchildren learned to “duck and cover” under their desks in case an atomic bomb was dropped nearby. Since the end of the Cold War, kids have grown up free of the fear of nuclear attack. But those days may be coming to an end.

New threats have emerged. The first is North Korea, which is believed to have as many as 10 nuclear warheads and recently carried out its third nuclear test. The Pyongyang regime, according to House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers, R-Mich., has missiles “that can reach U.S. shores.”

This month, North Korea threatened to launch a “pre-emptive nuclear attack against the headquarters of the aggressor,” meaning the United States. It’s no comfort that Pyongyang’s arsenal is now in the hands of a young and inexperienced ruler, Kim Jong Un, whose inclinations are a mystery.

Then there is Iran, which is believed to be proceeding toward building its own nuclear stockpile. Its missiles are capable of hitting targets in Israel and Europe, and in 2010 the Pentagon warned that, “With sufficient foreign assistance, Iran could probably develop and test an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of reaching the United States by 2015.”

So it’s no surprise that American military planners are feeling some urgency about addressing the looming specter of nuclear attack. True, the U.S. retains a formidable nuclear capability that would guarantee the instant and total destruction of any government so rash as to launch a missile in our direction. But that doesn’t make it any more comfortable to ponder a mushroom cloud over an American city.

Missile defense is an attempt to buttress the power to retaliate with the ability to fend off incoming warheads before they arrive. Last week the Defense Department said it would spend \$1 billion to deploy more missile interceptors along the West Coast to shoot down a North Korean missile, increasing the total number from 30 to 44 in the next four years.

It’s a reasonable and useful step, at a cost that would seem trivial if the system were ever called on to deflect an attack. The defensive system would doubtless give pause to the North Koreans, who would have to contemplate wasting one of their few warheads while assuring a devastating U.S. strike in return. Though the program has been modestly successful in testing, hitting only about half its targets, it is advanced enough to add a significant challenge for Pyongyang.

With regard to Iran, the administration took a different step, scrapping the last phase of a missile defense system that has elicited vigorous objections from the government of Russia—which regarded the program as a threat to neutralize its nuclear weapons. The Pentagon insisted the U.S. decision was based on technical problems, which may be true. But it may also serve to pave the way to better relations and even arms reductions with Moscow.

The danger still exists, of course, but President Barack Obama has made it clear he will take military action if necessary to keep Iran from getting the bomb. If he succeeds in deterring Tehran from that course—or in forcibly preventing it—the European missile shield will not be needed quite so soon.

American missile defense still has a lot of hurdles to surmount before it can offer a reliable safeguard against attack. But even an imperfect system is better than nothing. And no one can doubt the need to keep pursuing it.

(c)2013 Chicago Tribune



Why is Obama going to Israel?

President Obama is visiting Israel this week, the first foreign trip of his second term. Some commentators have criticized the tour as a diversion from the president’s intention to pivot toward the Asia-Pacific region. Why go to Israel now, they ask, and anger the Arabs at a time of rising Middle Eastern turmoil? Others claim that the trip is merely a maneuver designed to achieve some memorable photo-ops rather than to advance crucial American interests.

Indeed, the president could have traveled farther east and to a less controversial country. But the fact remains that the United States is economically, militarily and strategically engaged in the Middle East. And Israel, a nation of only 8 million and the size of New Jersey, keeps chaos from completely engulfing the area.

Consider Egypt. Under its peace treaty with Israel, Egypt receives U.S. aid that prevents its economy from collapse and preserves American influence in Cairo. Peace with Israel also means that Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood cannot give free rein to its offshoot, the terrorist organization Hamas. In fact, the need to preserve peace with Israel has persuaded Egyptian leaders to play a constructive role in stopping Hamas rocket fire from the Gaza Strip. Even so, jihadist forces have killed Egyptians in Sinai and fired rockets at Jordan. Without Israel, those forces would spread unchecked as far north as Lebanon.

And Lebanon is dominated by another terrorist organization, Hezbollah. That group is armed with 70,000 rockets, has murdered civilians abroad and aided the Bashar Assad regime’s slaughtering of tens of thousands of Syrians. But Israel has effectively deterred Hezbollah, confining its regional influence and blocking its stated vision of creating “a greater Islamic republic governed by ... Iran.” Syria, for its part, long dreamed of annexing Lebanon but refrained for fear of Israeli intervention. If not for Israel, Lebanon as we know it might not even exist.

Syria also had designs on Jordan. In 1970, when Syria threatened to invade the country, Israel mobilized its army in Jordan’s defense. Today, as the burden of Syrian refugees renders the Hashemite kingdom vulnerable to domestic upheaval and sectarian violence in neighboring Iraq, Jordan’s enemies know that Israel stands beside it. And Jordan stands with Israel and the United States in the search for peace. Just last summer, nearly 20 years after Jordan signed its own treaty with Israel, King Abdullah II hosted an effort to resume direct talks between Israel and the Palestinians. Regrettably, the Palestinian Authority walked away.

That is the same Palestinian Authority established with Israel and the United States by the 1993 Oslo agreement and which both countries hope will be a partner in reaching a solution of two states for two peoples. The Palestinians cite Israel’s settlements as a reason for not negotiating, but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu assured Congress in 2011 that “in any peace agreement ... some settle-

By **MICHAEL OREN**
Los Angeles Times

Michael Oren is Israel’s ambassador to the United States. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



ments will end up beyond Israel’s borders.”

Until then, the Palestinian Authority remains extensively dependent on the Jewish state. Israel facilitates international trade for the Palestinians, supplies them with water and electricity, and furnishes thousands of jobs. In spite of the authority’s attempt to reconcile with Hamas leaders dedicated to Israel’s destruction, Israeli and Palestinian security forces cooperate in the West Bank. But after Israeli forces withdrew from Gaza in 2005, Hamas swiftly overthrew the authority and its police there and created a terrorist enclave. Without Israel, the West Bank, too, could be overtaken by terrorists.

Hamas and other terrorist groups are backed by Iran, which is pursuing military nuclear capabilities. Israel was the first country to expose the Iranian nuclear program. Armed with nuclear bombs, we warned, Iran could commandeer the vast oil sources of the Persian Gulf, provide terrorists with devastating weapons and compel other Middle Eastern states to acquire similar capabilities. Unstable states would amass nuclear arsenals. Our warnings, amplified by our insistence on the right to defend ourselves, spurred the international community to act. Without Israel, Iran would have long ago become a nuclear power.

Iran regularly threatens “to wipe Israel off the map.” So what would that map look like without the Jewish state? It would show a Middle East fragmented by raging civil conflicts, overrun by terrorists and primed to explode with the deadliest weapons. That is a map with little room for pro-Western governments or a strategic American presence.

Fortunately, the United States has an asset in the Middle East that is economically and politically stable, militarily robust, fiercely democratic and deeply appreciative of American aid. With defense cuts looming and its troops leaving the region, the United States can be confident that there remains one country capable of defending itself by itself and upholding vital American interests. “In a region of shifting alliances, Israel is America’s unwavering ally,” Prime Minister Netanyahu told Congress. “Israel has always been pro-American. Israel will always be pro-American.” That is why Obama is going to Israel.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

El Papa Francisco de Argentina

Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio is at home in many places on both sides of Andes where many Italians congregate in numbers from Lima to Sao Paolo. He is the new Pope of Roman Catholic Christendom, hailed as originating from geography way off the shadows of the southern Alps though the genes evidently originated from the same wellsprings of yonder Romans.

Habemus Papam was false alarm in satirist New Yorker Borowitz' account after the fifth ballot as cardinals allegedly shoveled incriminating papers into the furnace in deference to a new Pope who should not be saddled with all evidence of indiscretions by his predecessors. The levity was appropriate as Rome tries to distance itself from the soot on its hands, especially after the watch of former Cardinal Ratzinger the Hitler youth storm-trooper, most recently resigned Pope Benedict XVI.

Pope John XXIII who attempted to open the windows of the stale Basilica that shrouded the Magisterium drew us to the arcane universe of Christian theology. The spirit of the Vatican II Council was short-lived, not unlike the Prague Spring before the Russian military hardware rumbled down the cobblestones.

I was raised in Reformation Christianity brought by Protestant Evangelicals into the shores of Pea Eye after WWII. Given an inquisitive bent from the scientific ethos, I was not too enamored with the blatant superstition and fake piety of my institutional Church, so a shaking of the foundations of a stodgy cathedral of medieval thought came as welcomed news.

Superstition in an Other World beyond as an object of Christian hope came into sharp question from the pastoral voices of Barth and Bultmann, Tillich and Bonhoeffer, the Niebuhr brothers and Europe's existentialists who focused on the here-and-now. Coming out of the influence of Calvin, Luther, and Wesley, I was at home with reforms.

Mafabrikan Kuttura

Lamegai na fina' bailan attistan natibu 'nai sumasaunau usun kanai ni mafanana'an "hula". Guaha lokue' nuebu na kutturan Chamorro era i usun "chant" (fina) kuentos 'sino tinayuyot) ni mafana'an kontemporariu na bailan Chamorro. Puru finabrikan i man-mafana'an "masters" of Chamoru Dances gi modetnu na komunidan natibu.

Na' mamahlau para ta ayau kutturan otru pot konbiñiente piot sa' ta pega papa' kumu patte gi kutturan natibu. Para un' danche haf' hu sasañgan, bira hau tatte gi antigu na komunida pot para un' husga haf' na lache i un' hasñgon fumabrika un' baila ni ti patte gi estorian kutturan tanu'.

Muñga na pot kometsiu na un' atotga fumabrika un' baila. Dis-pues, tat ti tumuñgu' haf' tinatten Chamorro guine deste antigu a ti-empu. Mampos tagfena yan layeye pot kometsiu na man-masusede este na laimi.

Pot fabot atan ta'lu un' biahe ya unna' diberas konsensiamu kau gai atoridat hau man-fabrika kuttura. Manu na patte gi estorian finapos natibu 'nai siña un' sahañg finabrikamu?

Usun palabra

Guaha ha' lokue' tumatpañgen maisa siha "piluñg" na kantot kontodu usun liñguahe. Gi mismu tiempu ha fatta dibuenamente na fatsu kinempreña finu' Chamorro.

Ilegña un' kakanta: "I neñgkano' plantada..." Lache este na palabra. Plantada pot maplantan neñgkano' gi hilu' lamasa. I propiu palabra "plantau". Ha signiffika na esta monhayan maplanta ya listu para u mabenefisia.

I otru kantot ilelegña, "I pueñge sen-pulan". Kuestion: Kau siña ta sañgan na "i ha'ane sen-atdau?" I intension dinanche lau i ma-ayeg na palabra sumen lache. I ha kekesañgan i prohimu pot gualafon i pueñge. Bali na maseha haye na attista u fan aligau ayudu antes de u pega un' lache na usun palabra petmanente.

We took on the panoramic view of two millennia, from the Augustine's confessions, through Francis of Assissi's meanderings, to the heights of Tomas de Aquino's flights, on to the militant resolve of Ignatius de Loyola. The tableau blossomed with Malachi Martin and Andrew Greeley, and we took seriously the pedagogy of Paulo Freire, Ivan Illich, and Marshall MacLuhan, awed by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin's vision of the Cosmic Christ and Gustavo Gutierrez' political liberation motif.

Vatican Spring took its toll as Karl Rahner, Hans Kung, and Edward Schillebeeckx retreated to the sounds of silence. Interfaith dialogue did not go far even with Newman, Nouwen, and Merton. Matthew Fox anglicized the frock, and if we hope for another Pope Joan (13th century), we need to become conversant with the works of Mary Daly and Elizabeth Fiorenza! (An inquiringcolleague who asked who our papal candidate was at the onset of the election heard me say: "They do not allow Nuns on the list, yet!")

We stopped over Buenas Aires from Rio to Santiago in '79, just before Brazil enacted its Amnesty program to shield military atrocities from prosecution, and a few hours before General Pinochet of Chile got a diplomatic slap on the face when Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines canceled his stopover in Manila after a visit in Fiji on his way to China.

Being one of the rare non-Aryan persons in the airport at the time, and with the goose-stepping security all over the place reminiscent of films of the Wehrmacht, we had pimples of anxiety as we could not wait to get out of the place. The last time I had such feelings was when I was thrown against the wall on the west side of Chicago for walking a white girl to the station.

Members of the Interpol in Santiago were more jovial. They said: "Who would be stupid enough to come to Santiago on a Philippine passport hours after *el Presidente's* trip is canceled by Ma-

Na' dinanche i palabra deste tutuhon.

Ayu na kanta i "Patgon Neni" otru sunidu 'nai man-atotpe palabra siha ni sumen chagu' yan i signifkasion i orihinat na kanta. I primet materiat ha sasañgan pot piniten un' palao'an. Esta ti ha lili'e' me'naña sa' hinichum mataña ni milag lago'ña. Taya' gi orihinat na materiat finaisen "hanau mage yan un' añayu". Pues debi u guaha mas satton na inekuñgog intension orihinat na materiat ke malablan fatsu na intension.

Ilegña i otru kantot: "U hanague hau masetan flores neni". I intension komprendiyon lau yangin un' analisa haf' i mansañgan, i sustansia tinilaika ni lachen usun palabra. Ilegña dibuenamente na guahu man-bisita gi masetan flores, ti muna' hanauyu' maseta.

Tinatiye ni otru 'nai ilegña i kantot: "Humanau-yu gi batkon aire". Ala kuenta ilelegña na malag i batkon aire-gue' ti plasan ru-planu. De dios mihu na chinagu' i dos intension. Na dinanche i usun palabra ya u felis i sunidu sa' petmanente usuña.

Ahe', ti hu fofohyan ni unu gi sineyu' propiu na usun palabra sa este ha' solu 'nai siña tafana'gue famaguonta haf' dinanche gi ineyag li-ñguahen niha mismu.

Lokue', guaha siha kompiensia (speech contest) gi finu' Chamorro. Lache i para hita ni man-amku' para tatugi'e' famaguonta nu este na materiat. Debi i maestran liñguahe de u sedi famaguon tiempu gi halom kuantton eskuela tumuge' presentasion niha.

Yangin masusede este, pues siempre un' li'e' manu na eskalera 'nai gaige tiniñgu' ennau na estudiante gi usun matuge' na finu' Chamorro. Estague' na eskalera 'nai siña un' midi 'sino sensura kau magahet na ha tuñgu mañge' gi finu' Chamorro. Mauleg para i estudiante yan kontodu maestra.

Sotta i famaguon ya siha mismu u tuge' haf' gaige gi hinasson

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jaime R. Vergara is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church and was pastor of Saipan Immanuel UMC at the second millenium's turn. He now writes from China.

nila's absence of spine?" T'was me, and I am not generally that innocent! Happily, the village I went to a few hours out of the city was a stronghold of the assassinated Allende, so I became an instant hero to the anti-Pinochet crowd, instead.

This is all to say that Pope Francis ascends a pathway rich with tradition that can be embraced. We became familiar with Pedro Arrupe's Jesuits while perusing Aquinas Summa. We had been friendly to Jesuits since, appreciating their work in Micronesia. It was not long after Gary Bradley, S.J. in Saipan gave up the ghost while lifting the elements of the Eucharist that I surrendered my institutional ghost as well.

Arrupe, a Spanish athlete and medical practitioner before he took the vows, was one of eight Jesuit priests within the A-bomb zone when it dropped in Hiroshima. He and his Order brothers survived and turned the splendid chapel into an emergency haven dealing with the medical and psychological needs of the survivors.

We recall Pope Francis first act after the election. He returned to the Cardinals' hotel on the bus instead of taking the Papal limousine that would have been perfectly his purview. Not unlike Lee Kuan Yew's style while guiding the helms of Singapore living in a two-room apartment rather than a palace or a mansion, Pope Francis' in Buenos Aires followed his saint's style *sans* the opulence of a Prince of the Church characterized elsewhere.

Hey, we can say *Amen* with feelings, again!

By JOHN DELROSARIO

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

niha. Ayu 'nai un' li'e' haf' fuetsaña manhassu, man-otganisa materiat, yan mañge.

Huñgan, mauleg ta rikonose haf' tinige' niha lau muñga mana'na' abilidat niha gi tatten tinige' man-amku'. Un' dagen maisa hau ni saina yan maestra espesiatmente i estudiante.

I para ta ekuñgog un' patgon gi hechuran konbetsasion libianu ta pesa kinempreña gi usun liñguahiña. Faisen ya u diskribe haf' lini'eña entalu' iya siha estake u fattu gi eskuela. Atan kau dinanche usun li-ñguahe gi tinige'ña. Dispues, rikonose haf' ha sasañgan yan kau uma-fagcha' yan usun rason.

I usun palabra difirensiau gi todutres islas: Guam, Luta yan Saipan. Mafanana'an este "dialect" (dai-alek) usun pinayon tautau ginen tres islas. Giya Guam i kuestion: "Hafa na dia pa'gu?" Saipan, haf' na ha'ane pa'gu. Tulaikayon sa' parehu i intension i kuestion pot ti parehu haf' pinayonta. Dispues, debi u guaha respetu sa' ni un' opinion masinset gi Tablon Dies na Tinagu' Yuus.

I finatton tiempon fanumnagan (tiempon maipe) tinetemplan 'an uchan gi chatagmag 'sino gi lemlem tautau. Na'magof sa' tihana' fan tostus hit ta'lu maipen ha'ane gi sigiente dia. Lau pa'gu na sakan masañgan ni saiantes (scientist) klima na para u mas maipe ke mapos. Gef adahe hamyu piot i sessu esta man-malañgu seriuso siha na chet-not. Si Yuus Maase'!

for consumers and are providing workshop for food safety. They collect fees, too.

All of the above are responsible in assuring that we generates revenue from our investors and we need to hire all the essential staff who investigate, collect, and enforce regulations so that we are not being cheated.

All agencies that collect fees must be retained and improve. And since we are providing NMC with funding, I feel that it is necessary that we seek NMC guidance for all needed positions and training for all these department. Let NMC help us find all the necessary workforce needed to enforces regulations and collections of taxes and fees.

Winnie Atalig,
San Jose Village, Tinian

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The most essential government office

The most essential government agencies to me are the Division of Tax and Revenue, Department of Commerce, Northern Marianas College, Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, and all the regulatory agencies.

Regulatory agencies such as Customs, which needs tax investigators or inspectors to check if the business are paying their tax properly. There are some people making side business without license and are picking government property and selling it to their customers for free. Also, groceries stores that cheat on reporting the

accurate sales and are paying less tax.

At Commerce, essential are those positions who go out and check business licenses if they are valid, or are they using it for others side business they didn't apply for. Are they selling bad or harmful products for consumers? Do they pay fees for their license?

At Northern Marianas College, those departments who offer training and education for the jobs needed by employers who pay tuition and also generates revenue.

At CHCC, those who inspect if the food they are selling are safe

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 83 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 79

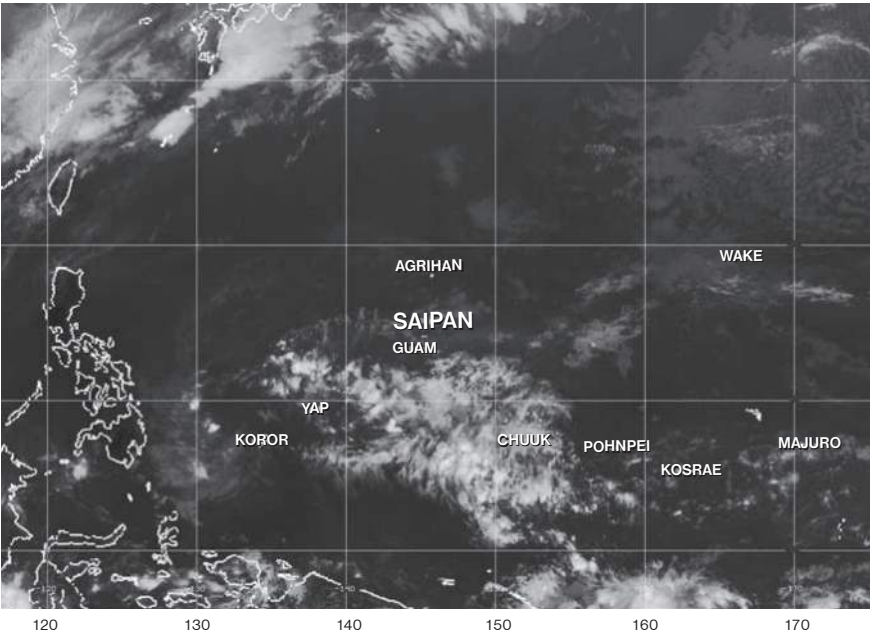
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 59
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 57 ▼ 35
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 75 ▼ 70
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 69
London	Cloudy	▲ 41 ▼ 38
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲ 71 ▼ 53
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 91 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	▲ 73 ▼ 55
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 63
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 44 ▼ 30
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 50 ▼ 40
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 50 ▼ 42
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 52 ▼ 44
Rome	Sunny	▲ 61 ▼ 44
Salem	Rain	▲ 52 ▼ 35
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 58 ▼ 48
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 46 ▼ 32
Tokyo	Windy	▲ 56 ▼ 45
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 55 ▼ 34

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:04 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:10 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
2:58 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:38 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends from a broad weak circulation centered southwest of Koror at 6N132E to the equator at 140E. Scattered showers are found from Koror westward west of a line from 11N130E to 7N136E to 4N135E to 3N130E. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from Yap east-southeastward to Chuuk in the area bounded by 13N135E to 11N146E to 6N156E to EQ152E back to 13N135E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers east of Majuro between 1N and 7N from 176E to the date line.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:21 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:20 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Monday	6:18 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:09 PM	1:28 AM
Friday	1:59 PM	2:13 AM
Saturday	2:50 PM	2:56 AM
Sunday	3:41 PM	3:38 AM
Monday	4:33 PM	4:20 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 8, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5062 3:35am 4:10am 1, 3, 5 UA5038 10:55am 11:30am 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:45am Daily DL285 6:30am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:25pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 2, 4, 6, 7 DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 1, 5 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 8:50pm 2:10am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:00am 8:35am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:30pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU7108 3:50am 7:40am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU7107 7:40pm 2:50am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO) XF1734 11:55am 5:10pm 5	VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ704/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:35am 9:55am 6 via GUM UA5062/191 4:40am 9:55am 3 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:15pm 2, 4, 5, 7 via NRT DL287/173 6:00am 10:35pm 1, 3, 6 via NRT UA5076/183 3:10pm 8:45pm Daily via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5072/PR111 9:45pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 7:55am 1:15am+1 2, 4, 7 via NRT DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via NRT UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/UA5072 10:15pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5076/147 3:10pm 9:45pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 10:35pm 7:55am+1 1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 100	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Cyprus in limbo after rejecting bank seizures plan

Boeing wins major 737 jet order from Ryanair

DUBLIN (AP)—There's finally some good news for Boeing: European discount airline Ryanair announced Tuesday it will buy 175 of the company's popular 737 jets, the largest order ever placed by a European carrier.

Chicago-based Boeing Co. has struggled ever since its new 787 Dreamliner was grounded by regulators in January following problems with its electrical system. It also was dealt a major blow Monday in the race to win the single-aisle plane market when Indonesia's Lion Air signed a deal with rival Airbus for 234 A320s.

Ryanair CEO Michael O'Leary said the deal will allow his airline to expand in markets such as Germany, Spain, Italy, Poland and Scandinavia. Neither side disclosed the purchase price for the 737-800s, but O'Leary said it did negotiate a bulk discount off the total list price of \$15.6 billion. Ryanair received a 53 percent discount on a prior 737 order. This time, O'Leary said he was paying "slightly higher" prices.

"I'm paying higher prices, I'm just not allowed to say so," O'Leary said, joking that Boeing executives got him drunk on St. Patrick's Day.

He said Ryanair will cease dividends and share buybacks for the next two to three years to help pay for the jets.

The deal was timed to coincide with Tuesday's visit by Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny to Washington, D.C., to meet President Barack

Obama and senior American legislators for St. Patrick's Day-related events. Kenny plans to visit the Seattle area, the base for Boeing manufacturing, later this week.

Kenny, appearing alongside Obama, called the Boeing-Ryanair deal a contract "of extraordinary proportions" and a sign of Ryanair's stunning run of success.

Ryanair already operates a fleet of 305 Boeing 737-800 aircraft, each with 189 seats, one of the tightest configurations in the industry. It is Boeing's biggest European customer for the model, which launched in 1997 and faces global competition from the Airbus A320.

Boeing's primary 737 assembly line in Renton, Wash., faces a transition to building a newer model called the 737 MAX by 2017. Ryanair's order represents about a half-year of full-time work for the plant.

Ryanair has yet to sign on for the new MAX jet, but O'Leary said he has assembled a team to evaluate the new version of the 737.

"Today's order is a very much interim order and will hopefully be a forerunner to ordering the MAX later on," he said at a signing ceremony in New York.

Ray Conner, the head of Boeing's commercial airplanes division, said this deal fills most of his 737 assembly line capacity until MAX production begins.

Conner said the problems with the 787 had "no bearing on this (deal) at all."

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)—Lawmakers in Cyprus decisively rejected a plan on Tuesday to seize up to 10 percent of people's bank deposits in order to secure an international bailout and prevent a collapse of the country's banks.

The vote leaves the tiny Mediterranean economy in financial limbo, but hundreds of protesters outside Parliament cheered and sang the national

anthem when they heard the bill failed.

Still, Cyprus needs 15.8 billion euros (\$20.4 billion) to bail out its heavily indebted banks and shore up government finances. If it doesn't get the money, the banks could fail, Cyprus' government finances could be ruined for years and the country could face expulsion from the 17-country euro currency union. Eurozone countries and the Interna-

tional Monetary Fund have pledged to provide 10 billion euros (\$12.9 billion) in rescue loans if Cyprus can come up with the remainder.

With the country's banks closed since Saturday to avoid a run, Cypriot leaders will now try to hatch a more politically palatable plan that might also satisfy officials in the eurozone and IMF.

The plan that was rejected Tuesday—with 36 votes against, 19 abstentions and one absence—had been amended to shield the smallest depositors, those with under 20,000 euros (\$25,858) in the bank. But deposits up to 100,000 euros (\$129,290) are supposed to be insured by all euro countries. There has been widespread condemnation of the plan throughout Europe since it was announced over the weekend.

Global financial markets were on edge Tuesday, but investors so far have taken the latest turmoil in Europe in stride. The Cypriot economy is tiny and there is hope that Europe's political leaders can find a way to bolster the country's finances and prevent it from leaving the euro. After the Cypriot vote came in, the Dow Jones industrial average ended the day 3 points higher at 14,455. Earlier in the day, European markets closed slightly lower while the euro edged down 0.4 percent against the dollar.

"This is not the end of the process, but instead kicks off a further round of negotiation," said Alex White of J.P.Morgan. "The Cypriot authorities wanted to conduct the vote so that they could reaffirm the extent of their difficulties to the Europeans."

Part of the reason for the market calm is that the European Central Bank has promised to do whatever it takes to protect the euro. It has a plan in place to buy the government debt of any countries that fall into financial trouble, provided they ask for help. That has helped keep bond market borrowing rates manageable for Italy and Spain, for example.



European officials say that Cyprus can amend the terms of its \$13 billion bailout that required bank customers to pay a one-time tax. The terms have sparked public outcry and closed banks.

At a glance

Size 3,570 sq. mi. (9,250 sq. km)

Population 1.14 million; three-fourths are Greek

Economy

One of the smallest eurozone economies; two largest banks are among largest European holders of Greek debt, which has contributed to credit rating downgrades

- GDP per person **\$26,900**
- Growth rate **-2.3%**
- Unemployment **8%**
- Public debt **81% of GDP**

Government Republic; Nicos Anastasiades elected president in 2013 after promising to secure a financial bailout

Source: ESRI, CIA World Factbook, BBC
Graphic: Pat Carr

Recent political history

1974 Greek military junta backs coup against Cypriot president; Turkish troops land in north; U.N. enforces partition along "Green Line"

2002 U.N. offers peace plan, which is later rejected by Greek Cypriots

2004 Cyprus joins EU as divided island

Recent financial history

2008 Adopts the euro

2009 Dips into recession

2011 Budget deficit rises to 7.4% of GDP; eurozone criteria requires no more than 3% of GDP

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Twinkies sale approved by judge

NEW YORK (AP)—A bankruptcy judge on Tuesday approved the sale of Twinkies to a pair of investment firms, one of which has said it hopes to have the cakes back on shelves by summer.

Hostess Brands Inc. is selling Twinkies, Ding Dongs, Ho Hos and other brands to Apollo Global Management and Metropoulos & Co. for \$410 million. Evan Metropoulos, a principal of the latter firm, said in an interview that he wants to have the snack cakes back on shelves by June and that the brands could benefit from new flavors and other product extensions.

"There's no mistake, we've got to move smartly, we've got to move quickly," Metropoulos said.

He also said that comedians Will Ferrell and Zach Galifianakis are at the top of his "wish list" for potential pitchmen. But he doesn't plan on formally approaching anyone about marketing deals until after the sale closes in coming weeks.

Metropoulos, which owns Pabst beer, has already used Ferrell in its ads. Apollo's investments include the fast-food chains Hardee's and Carl's Jr., which is known for indulgent burgers and splashy ads starring scantily clad women.

Judge Robert Drain of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court of the Southern District of

New York also approved the sale of Wonder bread to Flowers Foods, which makes Tastykakes and other breads. Flowers, based in Thomasville, Ga., would also get Nature's Pride, Butter-nut, Home Pride and Merita as part of the \$360 million deal.

Hostess has said the Justice Department is reviewing that sale.

The sale of Beefsteak to Grupo Bimbo was also approved. Grupo Bimbo makes Entenmann's cakes and Thomas' English muffins and is paying \$31.9 million for the regional bread brand.

A separate hearing is scheduled for April 9 to approve the sale of Drake's cakes, which include Devil Dogs and Yodels. Hostess picked McKee Foods, the maker of Little Debbie snack cakes, as the buyer for those brands at \$27.5 million.

Taken together, a Hostess spokesman said 29 of the bankrupt company's 36 bakeries were sold as part of the transactions. It will be up to the new owners whether to hire back the thousands of workers who lost their jobs when the company went out of business.

Mark Semer, a spokesman for Metropoulos, said the firms would hire "the most qualified employees for each of our facilities, and this certainly includes many excellent, former Hostess workers."

Cyberwar manual lays down rules for online attacks

LONDON (AP)—Even cyberwar has rules, and one group of experts is putting out a manual to prove it.

Their handbook, due to be published later this week, applies the practice of international law to the world of electronic warfare in an effort to show how hospitals, civilians and neutral nations can be protected in an information-age fight.

"Everyone was seeing the Internet as the 'Wild, Wild West,'" U.S. Naval War College Professor Michael Schmitt, the manual's editor, said in an interview before its official release. "What they had forgotten is that international law applies to cyberweapons like it applies to any other weapons."

The Tallinn Manual—named for the Estonian capital where it was compiled—was created at the behest of the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence, a NATO think tank. It takes existing rules on battlefield behavior, such as the 1868 St. Petersburg Declaration and the 1949 Geneva Convention, to the Internet,

occasionally in unexpected ways.

Marco Roscini, who teaches international law at London's University of Westminster, described the manual as a first-of-its-kind attempt to show that the laws of war—some of which date back to the 19th century—were flexible enough to accommodate the new realities of online conflict.

The 282-page handbook has no official standing, but Roscini predicted that it would be an important reference as military lawyers across the world increasingly grapple with what to do about electronic attacks.

"I'm sure it will be quite influential," he said.

The manual's central premise is that war doesn't stop being war just because it happens online. Hacking a dam's controls to release its reservoir into a river valley can have the same effect as breaching it with explosives, its authors argue.

Legally speaking, a cyberattack that sparks a fire at a military base is indistinguishable from an attack that uses an

incendiary shell.

The humanitarian protections don't disappear online either. Medical computers get the same protection that brick-and-mortar hospitals do. The personal data related to prisoners of war has to be kept safe in the same way that the prisoners themselves are—for example by having the information stored separately from military servers that might be subject to attack.

Cyberwar can lead to cyberwar crimes, the manual warned. Launching an attack from a neutral nation's computer network is forbidden in much the same way that hostile armies aren't allowed to march through a neutral country's territory. Shutting down the Internet in an occupied area in retaliation for a rebel cyberattack could fall afoul of international prohibitions on collective punishment.

The experts behind the manual—two dozen officers, academics, and researchers drawn mainly from NATO states—didn't always agree on how traditional rules applied in a cyberwar.

Nation

No assault weapons ban: Not in Dems' Senate bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—An assault weapons ban won't be in the gun-control legislation that Democrats bring to the Senate floor next month, a decision that means the ban's chances of survival now are all but hopeless.

The ban is the most controversial firearms restriction that President Barack Obama and other Democrats have pressed for since an assault-type weapon was used in the December massacre at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn. Rejection by Congress would be a major victory for the National Rifle Association and its supporters and a setback for Obama and the provision's sponsor, California Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

In a tactical decision, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., concluded that including the prohibition in the gun bill would jeopardize the chances for passage of any firearms legislation at all, taking away votes that would be needed to overcome Republican attempts to block the Senate from even taking up the issue.

"I very much regret it," Feinstein said Tuesday of the choice that Reid told her he had made. "I tried my best. But my best, I guess, wasn't good enough."

Feinstein's proposal to prohibit military-style weapons will still get a vote as an amendment to the gun legislation that Democrats debate. But she is all but certain to need 60 votes



In this Jan. 24, 2013 file photo, Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks during a news conference with a coalition of members of Congress, mayors, law enforcement officers, gun safety organizations and other groups on Capitol Hill in Washington to introduce legislation on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition feeding devices.

from the 100-member Senate to prevail, and she faces solid Republican opposition as well as likely defections from some Democrats.

Reid told reporters that "using the most optimistic numbers," there were less than 40 votes for Feinstein's ban. That is

far less than the 60 votes needed to move contested legislation in the chamber, which has 53 Democrats plus two independents who usually back them.

"I'm not going to try to put something on the floor that won't succeed. I want something that will succeed. I think

the worst of all worlds would be to bring something to the floor and it dies there," Reid said.

Because of the opposition the ban has prompted, its exclusion from the initial package the Senate considers had been expected as a way for Democrats to amass the strongest possible vote for

the overall legislation. Having a separate vote on assault weapons might free moderate Democratic senators facing reelection in Republican-leaning states next year to vote against the assault weapons measure, but then support the remaining overall package of gun curbs.

Rand Paul says immigration reform needs conservatives

WASHINGTON (AP)—Tea party favorite Sen. Rand Paul said Tuesday that the nation's illegal immigrants should be able to become citizens eventually, but amid a furor from conservative activists on the explosive issue he quickly sought to make clear that, while they would not be sent home, they couldn't get in line in front of anyone else.

What he doesn't support, the Kentucky Republican said, is amnesty or a new pathway to citizenship for the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants already in the country. He said he simply be-

lieves they should be able to stay in the country on what he called probationary status.

"You get in the normal line to citizenship that's already available, so it's not a new pathway, it's an existing pathway," Paul told reporters.

The dust-up underscored how semantics matter in the volatile debate over immigration, especially for a conservative who may seek the presidency in 2016. Twitter users were already dubbing Paul's stance "Randmes-ty," while an anti-immigration group, NumbersUSA, deemed

his proposal "radical" and predicted that Kentucky residents would be "disappointed and maybe even shocked."

Paul himself ended up telling reporters on a conference call that both the terms "amnesty" and "path to citizenship" were better avoided because they just cloud the debate and prevent immigration reform from happening.

"We're trapped if we get lost in those terms," he said.

Earlier in the day, in a speech to the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Paul issued an

appeal to conservatives to get involved in the immigration debate and warned that the GOP risks "permanent minority status" if it doesn't win over more Hispanics.

"Let's start that conversation by acknowledging we aren't going to deport" the millions already in the country, Paul said. "Prudence, compassion and thrift all point us toward the same goal: bringing these workers out of the shadows and into becoming and being taxpaying members of society."

"Immigration reform will

not occur until conservative Republicans, like myself, become part of the solution. I am here today to begin that conversation," he said.

Paul spoke a day after a Republican National Committee report called on the GOP to support comprehensive immigration reform, though without specifying whether it should include a pathway to citizenship. And like Paul's remarks, the RNC's new stance after significant election losses last fall also was questioned by conservative activists.

Pentagon bans 60mm mortar round after deaths

HAWTHORNE, Nev. (AP)—A mortar shell explosion killed seven Marines and injured a half-dozen more during mountain warfare training in Nevada's high desert, prompting the Pentagon to immediately halt the use of the weapons until an investigation can determine their safety, officials said Tuesday.

The explosion occurred Monday night at the Hawthorne Army Depot, a facility used by troops heading overseas, during an exercise involving the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force from Camp Lejeune, N.C. Sev-

eral Marines from the unit were injured in the blast, authorities said.

The mortar round exploded in its firing tube during the exercise, said Brigadier General Jim Lukeman at a news conference at Camp Lejeune. He said investigators are trying to determine the cause of the malfunction.

The Pentagon expanded a temporary ban to prohibit the military from firing any 60mm mortar rounds until the results of the investigation. The Marine Corps said Tuesday a "blanket suspension" of 60mm mortars

and associated firing tubes is in effect.

The Pentagon earlier had suspended use of all high-explosive and illumination mortar rounds that were in the same manufacturing lots as ones fired in Nevada.

It was not immediately clear whether more than a single round exploded, a Marine Corps official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the official wasn't authorized to speak about an ongoing investigation.

Eight men under the age of 30

were taken to Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno with injuries, such as penetrating trauma, fractures and vascular injuries. One of them died, five were in serious condition, one in was fair condition and another was discharged, said spokesman Mark Earnest.

The identities of those killed won't be released until 24 hours after their families are notified.

"We send our prayers and condolences to the families of Marines involved in this tragic incident," said the force's commander, Maj. Gen. Raymond

C. Fox. "We mourn their loss, and it is with heavy hearts we remember their courage and sacrifice."

The rescue was complicated by the remoteness of the site, which is favored because the harsh geography simulates conditions in Afghanistan.

The 60mm mortar is a weapon that traditionally requires three to four Marines to operate, but it's common during training for others to observe nearby. The firing tube is supported in a tripod-like design and fires roughly a 3-pound shell, some 14 inches in length and a bit larger than 2 inches in diameter.

ACROSS THE NATION

Jury convicts Tenn. mother in newborn twins' deaths

GALLATIN, Tenn. (AP)—A jury found a 26-year-old Tennessee woman guilty of murder Tuesday in the 2011 smothering deaths of newborn twins found in her laundry basket. The jury of seven men and five women convicted Lindsey Lowe, of suburban Nashville, of felony murder, premeditated murder and aggravated child abuse. She was immediately sentenced to life in prison by the judge. Lowe, who was often emotional at trial, didn't break down as the sentence was pronounced. She was dry-eyed when she turned to sobbing family members and friends in the courtroom before being taken into custody.

Sheriff says missing Mo. mom staged disappearance

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—To law enforcement agencies, the disappearance of a Missouri woman and her young daughter for four days had all the markings of an abduction: a cryptic text message asking for help, a phone call that sounded like it was being read from a script, an ex-husband with a history of domestic violence. Instead, Rachel Koechner told investigators Monday night that she slipped away with Devon Sandner, the ex-husband who's the father of her 4-year-old daughter, last week as part of a plan she devised a day before they took off. Koechner, Sandner and their child were found Monday in a home in Linn County about 100 miles northeast of Kansas City after someone saw them getting gas in nearby Brookfield and called police.

1,000-year-old Chinese bowl sells for over \$2.22M

NEW YORK (AP)—A rare Chinese bowl bought at a tag sale for \$3 has sold at a New York auction for more than \$2.22 million. The 1,000-year-old bowl was part of the opening session of Sotheby's fine Chinese ceramics and works of art auction Tuesday. Sotheby's says it was sold to a London dealer for \$2.225 million, far above the presale estimate of \$200,000 to \$300,000. The person who put the bowl up for auction bought it at a tag sale in 2007 and had it displayed in the living room for several years before becoming curious about its origins and having it examined.

Asia

Philippine top court halts contraceptives law

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine Supreme Court on Tuesday temporarily halted the implementation of a law that provides state funding for contraceptives, legislation opposed by the dominant Roman Catholic Church but supported by reproductive health activists.

The Responsible Parenthood Law was passed by lawmakers late last year despite the church's opposition but petitioners questioned its legality on several grounds, saying it offends religious beliefs and fosters abortion, which remains illegal in the country.

Voting 15-5 in favor of 10 separate petitions, the justices stopped the implementation of the law until June 18, when both sides will argue their cases before the court, said Theodore Te, spokesman for the Supreme Court.

Catholic leaders consider the law an attack on the church's core values and say it promotes promiscuity and destroys life. The government says it helps the poor manage the number of children they have and provides for maternal health care.

Nearly half of all pregnancies in the Philippines are unwanted, according to the U.N. Population Fund, and a third of those end up aborted in back-alley clinics.

The Philippines has a population of 94 million and one of Asia's highest birth rates.

Edwin Lacierda, spokesman for President Benigno Aquino III, said that the government was confident it will be able to defend the merits of the law.

Aquino risked the clash with the church and church-backed politicians to sponsor the law and lobby for its passage. Aquino signed the law in De-



cember, and the Department of Health last week drafted and approved its implementing rules, setting it into motion.

The law mandates government health centers to provide universal and free access to nearly all contraceptives to everyone, particularly the country's poorest, who make up a third of the population. So far, such access has been patchy, expensive, and hinged on the political will of local governments. In the past, for instance, some mayors banned free distribution of condoms in their areas.

The law also makes sexual education compulsory in public schools.

The government made some concessions in deference to the church, according to Mellisa

Upreti, regional director for Asia at the U.S.-based Center for Reproductive Rights.

It failed to legalize all contraceptives, including emergency contraception, and the law contains a measure that allows private and religious-affiliated hospitals to deny reproductive health services based on their moral and theological objections, Upreti wrote in Tuesday's *Guardian* newspaper.

Private-run Catholic hospitals are among the leading providers of health care in the Philippines.

AP

Protesters light candles and display placards during a rally Tuesday March 19, 2013 at the Philippine Supreme Court in Manila, Philippines to protest the highest court's issuance of a 120-day status quo ante order or a four-month delay of the implementation of the Reproductive Health Law which was signed by President Benigno Aquino III in December of last year.

Renewed nuke sale fear after recent NKorea test

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's nuclear test last month wasn't just a show of defiance and national pride; it also serves as advertising. The target audience, analysts say, is anyone in the world looking to buy nuclear material.

Though Pyongyang has threatened to launch nuclear strikes on the U.S., the most immediate threat posed by its nuclear technology may be North Korea's willingness to sell it to nations that Washington sees as sponsors of terrorism. The fear of such sales was highlighted this week, when Japan confirmed that cargo seized last year and believed to

be from North Korea contained material that could be used to make nuclear centrifuges, which are crucial to enriching uranium into bomb fuel.

The dangerous message North Korea is sending, according to Graham Allison, a nuclear expert at the Harvard Kennedy School: "Nukes are for sale."

North Korea launched a long-range rocket in December, which the U.N. called a cover for a banned test of ballistic missile technology. On Feb. 12, it conducted its third underground nuclear test, which got Pyongyang new U.N. sanctions.

Outside nuclear specialists believe North Korea has

enough nuclear material for several crude bombs, but they have yet to see proof that Pyongyang can build a warhead small enough to mount on a missile. The North, however, may be able to help other countries develop nuclear expertise right now, as it is believed to have done in the past.

"There's a growing technical capability and confidence to sell weapons and technology abroad, without fear of reprisal, and that lack of fear comes from (their) growing nuclear capabilities," Joel Wit, a former U.S. State Department official, said at a recent nuclear conference in Seoul.

Pyongyang says it needs nuclear weapons because of what it calls a hostile U.S. policy aimed at invading the North. The U.S., South Korea and others say North Korean brinksmanship meant to win aid and other concessions is the real motive. Even China, North Korea's most important ally, opposes its neighbor's nuclear ambitions.

North Korean nuclear sales earn the impoverished country money that can be pumped back into weapons development, analyst Shin Beomchul at the South Korean-run Korea Institute for Defense Analyses in Seoul said Tuesday.



ASIAN BRIEFS

American guilty in Irish student's murder in Tokyo

TOKYO (AP)—A 19-year-old American musician was convicted and sentenced to at least five years in prison Tuesday for murdering an Irish exchange student after he drank with her until she passed out and used a wheelchair to take her, unconscious, to the hotel room where she died. Richard Hinds, of Memphis, Tennessee, stood silently as he was found guilty of strangling Nicola Furlong in what the presiding judge called a "vicious" attack. He was ordered to serve no less than five but no more than 10 years in a Japanese prison. Hinds and another American were accused of taking Furlong, 21, and one of her friends to the hotel after they had passed out in a bar. The Tokyo District Court ruled that Hinds strangled Furlong when she regained consciousness to keep her quiet.

1st US search since 2004 for MIAs in Myanmar ends

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A U.S. government team searching for bodies of American military personnel missing in action from past wars

has finished its first mission in Myanmar since 2004. The U.S. Embassy said Tuesday that a nine-person team from the U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command confirmed some previous leads and developed new ones on the fate of Americans unaccounted for in fighting against the Japanese in World War II. It said research and fieldwork was done from Feb. 21 to March 15 in three areas, including Yangon, Myanmar's biggest city.

Briton jumps out window to escape attack in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—A British woman traveling in India jumped out of the third-floor window of her hotel room on Tuesday, telling police she feared a sexual attack after the hotel's owner tried to force his way into the room by offering her a massage. The woman was not badly hurt, although she suffered some injuries to her legs, police officer Sushant Gaur said. Police arrested the hotel owner in connection with the incident in Agra, the site of the Taj Mahal, one of India's most cherished tourist attractions, Gaur said. No charges have been filed.

Power, cooling restored at Japanese nuclear plant

TOKYO (AP)—Cooling systems were restored for four fuel storage pools at Japan's tsunami-damaged nuclear plant, more than a day after a power outage halted the supply of fresh cooling water and raised concerns about the safety of the facility, which still relies on makeshift equipment.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. said the cooling system at the last pool at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant was repaired early Wednesday. It said pool temperatures were well within safe levels and the reactors were unaffected.

TEPCO spokesman Yoshikazu Nagai said workers were still trying to determine the cause of the cooling failure, which began when a brief power blackout hit the plant Tuesday evening.

About 50 workers in hazmat suits and full-face masks were mobilized to fix the cabling to

three switchboards that were suspected of involvement in the problem. TEPCO also prepared a backup system in case the repairs didn't fix the issue and "worse comes to worst," company spokesman Masayuki Ono said earlier Tuesday.

A massive earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011, caused extensive damage to the plant. Massive radiation leaks at that time contaminated air, water and soil around the plant, causing some 160,000 residents to evacuate.

The latest power outage was a test for TEPCO to show if it has learned anything from the disaster. TEPCO, which has faced repeated cover-up scandals, was slammed by local media Tuesday for waiting hours to disclose the blackout.

Ono acknowledged the plant

was vulnerable.

"Fukushima Dai-ichi still runs on makeshift equipment, and we are trying to switch to something more permanent and dependable, which is more desirable," he said. "Considering the equipment situation, we may be pushing a little too hard."

Ono said the utility did not immediately try to switch to a backup cooling system because doing so without finding and fixing the cause could lead to a repeat of the problem.

There is a backup cooling system but no backup outside power source. TEPCO has backup cooling systems with separate power sources for reactor cooling, but fuel storage pools only have emergency diesel generators as a backup. TEPCO said it will consider installing backup outside power for the pools.

World

Bombings in Iraq kill 65 a decade after invasion

BAGHDAD (AP)—Insurgents sent a bloody message on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion, carrying out a wave of bombings across the country Tuesday that killed at least 65 people in the deadliest day in Iraq this year.

The nearly 20 attacks, most of them in and around Baghdad, demonstrated in stark terms how dangerously divided Iraq remains more than a year after American troops withdrew. More than 240 people were reported wounded.

It was Iraq's bloodiest day since Sept. 9, when an onslaught of bombings and shootings killed 92.

Violence has ebbed sharply since the peak of Sunni-Shiite fighting that pushed the country to the brink of civil war in 2006 and 2007. But insurgents are still able to stage high-profile attacks, while sectarian and ethnic rivalries continue to tear at the fabric of national unity.

The symbolism of Tuesday's attacks was strong, coming 10 years to the day, Washington time, that President George W. Bush announced the start of hostilities against Iraq. It was already early March 20, 2003, in Iraq when the airstrikes began.

The military action quickly ousted Saddam Hussein but led to years of bloodshed as Sunni and Shiite militants battled U.S. forces and each other, leaving nearly 4,500 Americans and



People gather at the scene of a car bomb attack close to one of the main gates to the heavily-fortified Green Zone, which houses major government offices and the embassies of several countries, including the United States and Britain in Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, March 19, 2013.

more than 100,000 Iraqis dead.

A decade later, Iraq's long-term stability and the strength of its democracy are uncertain. While the country is freer than it was during Saddam's murderous rule, its Shiite-led government is arguably closer to Tehran than to Washington. It

faces an outpouring of anger by the Sunni minority that was dominant under Saddam and at the heart of the insurgency that followed his ouster.

"Today's attacks are new proof that the politicians and security officials are a huge failure," said Hussein Abdul-Khaliq, a resident

of Baghdad's Shiite slum district of Sadr City, which was hit by three explosions that killed 10 people, including three commuters on a minibus.

The apparently coordinated attacks around the country included car bombs and explosives stuck to the underside of vehicles. They targeted government security

forces and mainly Shiite areas.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but Iraqi officials believe al-Qaida's Iraq arm is to blame. The terror group favors car bombs and coordinated bombings to undermine public confidence in the government. It has claimed it was behind two large-scale, well-coordinated attacks already this month, including an assault on the Justice Ministry in downtown Baghdad last week that left 30 dead.

Sabah al-Nuaman, a spokesman for Iraq's counterterrorism services, said al-Qaida is trying to exploit political instability in the country. He also linked the violence to the civil war across the border in Syria, where largely Sunni rebels—some with ties to al-Qaida—are trying to topple President Bashar Assad.

"The terrorist groups are trying to move their operations back to Iraq. They want to make Iraq part of the regional struggle," al-Nuaman said.

The violence started around 8 a.m., when a bomb exploded outside a popular restaurant in Baghdad's Mashtal neighborhood, killing four people, according to police and hospital officials. It blew out the eatery's windows and left several cars mangled in the blood-streaked street.

Syria and rebels trade chemical weapons charges

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Syria's government and rebels traded accusations Tuesday of a chemical attack on a northern village for the first time in the civil war, although the U.S. said there was no evidence it had happened.

The use of such weapons would be a nightmare scenario in the 2-year-old conflict that has killed an estimated 70,000 people, and the competing claims showed a willingness by both sides to go to new levels to seek support from world powers.

One of the international community's biggest concerns is that Syria's arsenal of chemical weapons could be used by one side or the other, or could fall into the hands of foreign jihadi fighters among the rebels or the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, which is allied with the regime of President Bashar Assad.

President Barack Obama has declared the use, deployment or transfer of the weapons would be a "red line" for possible military intervention by the U.S. in the Syrian conflict.

The accusations emerged

only a few hours after the Syrian opposition elected a prime minister to head an interim government that would rule areas seized by rebel forces from the Assad regime.

The state-run SANA news agency said "a missile containing a chemical substance" was fired at the village of Khan al-Assal in Aleppo province by "terrorists"—the term it uses for rebels. Deputy Foreign Minister Faysal Mekdad said 31 people were killed.

SANA added that more than 100 others were wounded, some of them critically, and it published pictures showing casualties, including children, on stretchers in what appears to be a hospital ward. None showed signs of physical injuries.

"It is another crime to be added to the record of armed terrorist groups that are supported by some Arab countries and Western countries," Mekdad told reporters in Damascus.

To back up its claims of a chemical attack by the rebels, SANA pointed to videos posted on YouTube several months ago that purported to show regime opponents experiment-

ing with poisons on mice and rabbits. The origin of the videos was not known.

The rebels quickly denied using chemical weapons and accused regime forces of doing so.

Maj. Gen. Adnan Sillu, who was previously among those in charge of Syria's chemical weapons training program before he defected to Turkey last year, accused the Assad government of firing a chemical weapon. "Only the regime has long range missiles capable of handling chemical agents," he said in comments to Arab broadcaster Al Arabiya.

The head of Syria's main opposition group, the Syrian National Council, said the group was still investigating the attack.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on a network of activists in the country, said a rocket attack on Khan al-Assal killed at least 26 people. The group's director, Rami Abdul-Rahman, said he had no information that chemical weapons were involved and said the rocket landed near a military installation.

Congo warlord Bosco Ntaganda remains at US Embassy

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP)—Wanted on an international warrant for alleged war crimes, Congolese warlord Bosco Ntaganda lived openly in Congo for years, playing tennis at exclusive clubs and dining at lakeside restaurants in full view of foreign diplomats and U.N. peacekeepers.

That all ended when the 39-year-old known as "The Terminator" suddenly turned himself in Monday to the U.S. Embassy in Rwanda and asked to be handed over to the International Criminal Court—a surprise move that followed a split in Ntaganda's rebel group and apparent loss of support

from his backers in the Rwandan government.

"My best guess is that his options came down to go to The Hague or be killed," Tony Gambino, the former director of USAID in Congo, said of the about-face by Ntaganda, one of Africa's most-wanted men.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Tuesday that Ntaganda would remain at the U.S. Embassy in Kigali while U.S. officials worked to "facilitate his transfer to The Hague at his own request."

Noting that Rwanda's Justice Ministry had promised safe passage, she said, "now

it's a matter of working out the modalities, and that's going to take a little time."

Ntaganda, an ethnic Tutsi, was first indicted in 2006 by the ICC for allegedly building an army of child soldiers during a 2002-2003 conflict in Congo's eastern Ituri province. A second arrest warrant issued last July accused him of a range of crimes, including murder, rape, sexual slavery and pillaging.

Those who until recently fought alongside him say that Ntaganda fled Congo over the weekend after his men lost a key battle against fighters who split off last month from his M23 rebel movement.

Pope Francis urges protection of nature, weak

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis laid out the priorities of his pontificate during his installation Mass on Tuesday, urging the princes, presidents, sheiks and thousands of ordinary people attending to protect the environment, the weakest and the poorest and to let tenderness "open up a horizon of hope."

It was a message Francis has hinted at in his first week as pontiff, when his gestures of simplicity often spoke louder than his words. But on a day when he had the world's economic, political and religious leadership sitting before him on

the steps of St. Peter's Basilica for the official start of his papacy, Francis made his point clear.

"Please," he told them. "Let us be protectors of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment."

The Argentine native is the first pope from Latin America and the first named for the 13th-century friar St. Francis of Assisi, whose life's work was to care for nature, the poor and most disadvantaged.

The Vatican said between 150,000-200,000 people attended the Mass, held under bright

blue skies after days of chilly rain and featuring flag-waving fans from around the world.

In Buenos Aires, thousands of people packed the central Plaza di Mayo square to watch the ceremony on giant TV screens, erupting in joy when Francis called them from Rome, his words broadcast over loudspeakers.

"I want to ask a favor," Francis told them. "I want to ask you to walk together, and take care of one another. ... And don't forget that this bishop who is far away loves you very much. Pray for me."

Focus

BAGHDAD (AP)—It's been more than six years since a bomb ripped away the eyes from Shams Karim, killed her mother and left the little girl, now 7, blind and disfigured for life. Psychiatric drugs help control her outbursts of crying and screaming.

Throughout Iraq there are tens of thousands of victims like her whose lives are forever scarred by the violence of war. Their wounds—and those of tens of thousands of U.S. and other foreign service members—may never entirely heal.

In Baghdad, life goes on much as it has since the Ottoman sultan ruled these parts. Porters force loaded carts through narrow bazaars as amateur breeders' beloved pigeons swoop overhead. The calls to prayer from turquoise-domed mosques provide a rhythm to the day.

Yet the legacy of a war that began a decade ago remains very much a part of life here too. Bullet holes still pockmark buildings, and towers wrecked by American missiles and tank shells have not fully been rebuilt. Iraqi soldiers in body armor corral cars into road-clogging checkpoints, their fingers close to the trigger, ever wary of the next attack. At 1 a.m., a curfew shuts down the capital's streets, many still lined with blast walls.

It's hard nowadays to find anybody in much of the country who hasn't lost a friend or relative to the bloodletting that followed the U.S.-led invasion. Shams' mother is buried among the densely packed graves in Najaf, where an ancient cemetery is at least 40 percent larger than it was before the war. Each new bombing sends more coffin-topped cars south to the hot, dusty city of the dead.

The Bush administration had hoped the war that began with airstrikes before dawn on March 20, 2003—still the previous evening back in the States—would quickly rid Iraq of purported weapons of mass destruction, go after extremists and replace a brutal dictatorship with the foundations of a pro-Western democracy in the heart of the Middle East.

Ten years on, Iraq's long-term stability and the strength of its democracy remain open questions. The country is unquestionably freer and more democratic than it was before the "shock and awe" airstrikes began. But instead of a solidly pro-U.S. regime, the Iraqis have a government that is arguably closer to Tehran than to Washington and that struggles to exert full control over the country itself.

Bloody attacks launched by terrorists who thrived in the post-invasion chaos are still frequent - albeit less so than a few years back - and sectarian and ethnic rivalries are again tearing at the fabric of national unity. The top-heavy government is largely paralyzed by graft, chronic political crisis and what

critics fear is a new dictatorship in the making. The civil war in neighboring Syria risks sowing further discord in Iraq.

By the time the U.S. military pulled out of Iraq in December 2011, nearly 4,500 Americans and more than 100,000 Iraqis had lost their lives. No active WMDs were ever found. The war cost American taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars and diverted resources from Afghanistan, where the Taliban and al-Qaida rebounded after their pummeling in the 2001 invasion.

In Iraq, the Americans and their allies left behind a broken, deeply traumatized country - a land no longer at war but without peace. The toppling of Saddam Hussein's regime destroyed not only dictatorship but also the mechanism of law and order, enabling the rise of al-Qaida and the unleashing of sectarian, ethnic and class hatreds long suppressed by a reign of fear.

The invasion transferred power overnight to oppressed Shiites and Kurds but left many Sunni Arabs alienated. It established a system of sectarian-based politics that undermined national unity.

And it helped trigger a vicious insurgency that ruined countless lives without regard for religion or ethnicity.

It's easy to forget about the war's hardships inside the Haji Zebala juice shop on the capital's historic Rasheed Street, where they're still serving up fresh-pressed grape juice like they have for generations—though fear of bombings means customers are no longer willing to wait in line for 15 minutes as they did before the invasion.

Black-and-white pictures of old Baghdad cover the walls, transporting visitors to a time before Iraq became a byword for death and destruction.

Diaa al-Mandalawi, who works at the juice shop, remembers being surprised at just how quickly American helicopters came to be hovering over his city.

"We thought things would get better because the Americans promised us a lot," he said.

But the years of bloodshed that followed the heady days after Baghdad fell have taken its toll, he continued, and it is taking too long for his country to get back on its feet. "It's like building a house, but the process is too slow."

On the bright side, campaign posters once again line Iraqi streets, heralding a new round of voting coming up. In many places they hang alongside banners adorned with the image of revered Shiite saint Imam Hussein—a public display of faith



In this Wednesday, March 13, 2013 photo, Shams Karim, 7, rides in a toy boat in Zawraa Park with her father in Baghdad, Iraq. Six years ago, a bomb ripped away the eyes from Shams, killed her mother and left the little girl, blind for life.

10 years on, Iraq still grapples with WAR'S LEGACY

By ADAM SCHRECK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

rare during Saddam's rule.

Iraqi citizens today are unafraid to criticize their elected leaders in public—with some even going so far as to wish Saddam still ruled—and guests on TV talk shows boldly rail against corruption and other wrongdoing by their elected leaders.

There are other signs of progress too.

Fresh investment in the oil sector has pushed Iraq into the No. 2 producer spot in OPEC, boosting the economy. New businesses are opening up, like a popular Baghdad shopping mall and swanky hotels in the capital, southern Shiite pilgrimage centers and the northern Kurdish city of Irbil.

At the newly opened Aroma restaurant in Baghdad, waiters take orders for spaghetti and pizza on iPads. Dalia Ayad, a college student eating there with friends, said the new businesses are a sign that Iraq is moving forward.

"There is a change going on in the country," she said. "But it's not moving fast enough."

That is partly because Iraq remains a sharply divided society.

Majority Shiites tend to see more reason for hope than Sunnis do.

"Now people can hold protests against the government and criticize government officials," said Haider Ali Hassan, a government employee in the

southern city of Basra. "There are a lot of shortcomings and problems ... but it is still better than Saddam's time."

Saddam's Sunni-dominated government ruthlessly suppressed dissent, especially from the Shiite and Kurdish communities where opposition to his rule was more widespread.

The U.S.-led invasion upset the Sunnis' privileged position since Shiites and Kurds were more willing to support the new order.

"The United States destroyed the last remaining good things in Iraq. The current situation is definitely not any better than under Saddam," said Muhammad Majid, a Sunni coffee shop owner and father of two in the northern city of Mosul.

The American decision to disband the Iraqi military and bar many senior members of the newly outlawed Baath party from public-sector jobs suddenly left many Iraqis without work. The ways the policies were implemented added to the resentment of Sunnis, who were the bedrock of the military officer corps and held many senior posts in Saddam's regime.

That anger is now reflected in mass anti-government rallies each Friday in western Anbar province, the birthplace of the Iraqi insurgency, and other primarily Sunni areas.

The demonstrations present a potent and surprisingly per-

sistent challenge to Baghdad, which must also contend with the ethnic Kurds' increasing efforts to assert their autonomy.

"We thought the Americans and the United Nations would bring us a democratic system that would provide the country with security, reconstruction and prosperity. But it turned out the only change was to transfer power from Sunnis to Shiites," Ahmed Abu Risha, a prominent Sunni sheik who once helped Americans battle al-Qaida, complained during a recent interview. "Of course it's a disappointment."

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's political rivals accuse him of using his office to sideline and intimidate political opponents. Many Arab Sunnis and Kurds believe he is consolidating power to benefit members of his Shiite sect at their expense.

He remains directly in charge of the powerful Interior Ministry, giving him control over state security forces. They and the country's military have been unable to thwart frequent mass-casualty attacks that continue to plague the country. On Thursday, attackers unleashed a carefully planned assault with car bombs and a team of gunmen on the Justice Ministry in the heart of downtown Baghdad, killing more than 20 people as hundreds of others crouched

terrified in their offices.

Al-Maliki, who has held power since 2006, dismisses his critics as out to create divisions and provoke sectarian strife.

In a recent interview, the prime minister said he believes the country is moving in the right direction, though he acknowledged that the shift away from a centralized system to a more federal political structure will take time.

And he thinks Iraq's ties with America are improving despite concerns about his perceived closeness to U.S. foe Iran.

"It's natural to have ups and down in the relationship," he said. "We believe in the importance and the necessity of having relations with America, and we feel that the Americans are content with the results of their sacrifices and efforts in Iraq."

The last American combat troops rolled out of Iraq and into Kuwait in December 2011.

More than 150 U.S. military personnel remain mainly to provide training and facilitate arms sales - as is the case in many countries - but they are an arm of the American Embassy, a sprawling fortress the size of Vatican City. Along with other embassies and Iraqi government offices, it is tucked inside the relative safety of Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, which remains a no-go area for most Iraqis.

Signs of American influence can be found. Rap has gained a following among Iraqi youth, with young MCs spinning tales of hardship in bilingual rhyme. The ubiquitous police and army soldiers—some with Oakley-style sunglasses popular with American GI's—cruise the country's roads in all-American Humvees and modified Ford pickups.

But the American military withdrawal has significantly shifted Washington's clout in Baghdad's halls of power.

In his final report to Congress this month, the U.S. Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, Stuart Bowen, came to the conclusion that the \$60 billion the U.S. spent on rebuilding in Iraq produced too few results. The war itself cost American taxpayers hundreds of billions more.

Former U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta told Bowen's team that Washington's inability to secure an American military presence after 2011 deprived the U.S. of important leverage.

Al-Maliki and his political allies are increasingly forging ties with neighboring Shiite powerhouse Iran, particularly in Iraq's conservative south, which hundreds of thousands of Iranian pilgrims visit each year.

Environment

Solar industry grapples with hazardous wastes

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Homeowners on the hunt for sparkling solar panels are lured by ads filled with images of pristine landscapes and bright sunshine, and words about the technology's benefits for the environment—and the wallet.

What customers may not know is that there's a dirtier side.

While solar is a far less polluting energy source than coal or natural gas, many panel makers are nevertheless grappling with a hazardous waste problem. Fueled partly by billions in government incentives, the industry is creating millions of solar panels each year and, in the process, millions of pounds of polluted sludge and contaminated water.

To dispose of the material, the companies must transport it by truck or rail far from their own plants to waste facilities hundreds and, in some cases, thousands of miles away.

The fossil fuels used to transport that waste, experts say, is not typically considered in calculating solar's carbon footprint, giving scientists and consumers who use the measurement to gauge a product's impact on global warming the impression that solar is cleaner than it is.

After installing a solar panel, "it would take one to three months of generating electricity to pay off the energy invested in driving those hazardous waste emissions out of state," said Dustin Mulvaney, a San Jose State University environmental studies professor who conducts carbon footprint analyses of solar, biofuel and natural gas production.

The waste from manufacturing has raised concerns within the industry, which fears that the problem, if left unchecked, could undermine solar's green image at a time when companies are facing stiff competition from each other and from low-cost panel manufacturers from China and elsewhere.

"We want to take the lessons learned from electronics and semiconductor industries (about pollution) and get ahead of some of these problems," said John Smirnow, vice president for trade and competitiveness at the nearly 500-member Solar Energy Industries Association.

The increase in solar hazardous waste is directly related to the industry's fast growth over the past five years—even with solar business moving to China rapidly, the U.S. was a net exporter of solar products by \$2 billion in 2010, the last year of data available. The nation was even a net exporter to China.

New companies often send hazardous waste out of their

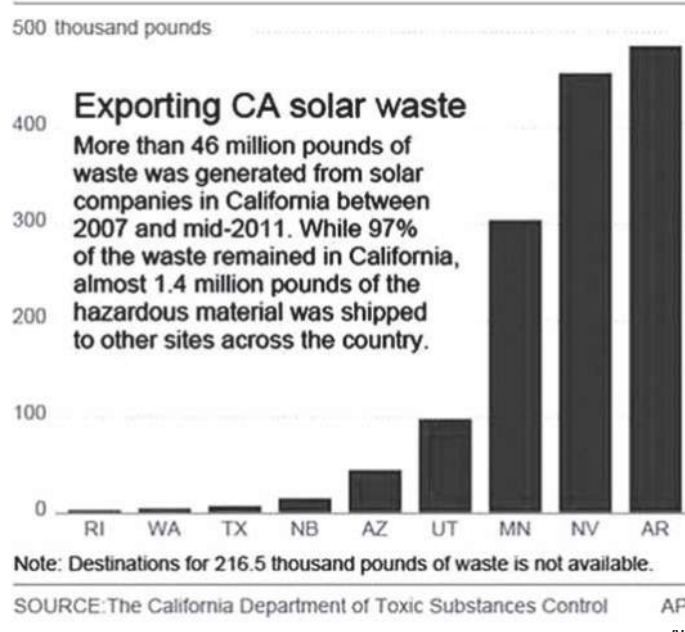


Chart shows the amount of waste generated from solar companies in California that was shipped to other states for disposal.

plants because they have not yet invested in on-site treatment equipment, which allows them to recycle some waste.

Nowhere is the waste issue more evident than in California, where landmark regulations approved in the 1970s require industrial plants like solar panel makers to report the amount of hazardous materials they produce, and where they send it. California leads the consumer solar market in the U.S.—which doubled overall both in 2010 and 2011.

The Associated Press compiled a list of 41 solar makers in the state, which included the top companies based on market data, and startups. In response to an AP records request, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control provided data that showed 17 of them reported waste, while the remaining did not.

The same level of federal data does not exist.

The state records show the 17 companies, which had 44 manufacturing facilities in California, produced 46.5 million pounds of sludge and contaminated water from 2007 through the first half of 2011. Roughly 97 percent of it was taken to hazardous waste facilities throughout the state, but more than 1.4 million pounds were transported to nine other states: Arkansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Rhode Island, Nevada, Washington, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona.

Several solar energy experts said they have not calculated the industry's total waste and were surprised at what the records showed.

Solyndra, the now-defunct solar company that received \$535 million in guaranteed federal loans, reported producing about 12.5 million pounds of hazardous waste, much of it carcinogenic cadmium-contaminated water, which was sent to waste facilities from 2007 through mid-2011.

Before the company went bankrupt, leading to increased scrutiny of the solar industry and political fallout for President Barack Obama's administration, Solyndra said it created 100 megawatts-worth of solar panels, enough to power 100,000 homes.

The records also show several other Silicon Valley solar facilities created millions of pounds of toxic waste without selling a single solar panel, while they were developing their technology or fine-tuning their production.

While much of the waste produced is considered toxic, there was no evidence it has harmed human health.

The vast majority of solar companies that generated hazardous waste in California have not been cited for waste-related pollution violations, although three had minor vio-

Japan's disaster radiation may help track Pacific bluefin tuna

By RYDER DIAZ
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

SAN JOSE, Calif.—A nuclear disaster may lead to insights into the mysterious migrations of Pacific bluefin tuna, a fish species that recently has suffered a dramatic decline.

Scientists report in a new study that they can use trace amounts of radiation in bluefin tuna to sketch the crisscrossing passage of the fish through the world's largest ocean. Understanding how many fish move back and forth may help with the conservation of bluefin tuna.

During the Fukushima nuclear disaster, two years ago, radioactive particles flooded into the Pacific Ocean. Bluefin tuna swimming through these waters began to store certain radioisotopes, called cesium 134 and cesium 137, in their muscle tissue.

The low levels of these particles don't pose a health danger to either the fish or sushi eaters, said Daniel Madigan, a Stanford University graduate student and an author on the study in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology*. But scientists can track the chemical mark of Fukushima to recreate a timeline of when bluefin tuna traveled from their spawning grounds, in waters around Japan, to the coast of North America.

Until now, researchers have stuck expensive electronic tag-

ging devices to bluefin tuna to follow their movements through the sea. But it's difficult for scientists to wrestle with a live, torpedo-shaped fish that can weigh more than 1,000 pounds.

With that technology, researchers still don't know where the fish has been before it was tagged or how many tuna are making the trip each year.

"What the chemical techniques, like radiocesium, can do is tell you where an animal came from," said Madigan, who has gathered samples from more than 400 bluefin in the past two years. Only 50 samples were used in the current study.

Bluefin tuna off the coasts of California and Mexico eventually travel back west to breed. Bluefin tuna bounce back and forth across the Pacific and are part of one large, billion-dollar global fishery.

This January, an almost 500-pound bluefin tuna sold for \$1.75 million; the high price is a tradition for the first fish of the season. However, a December 2012 stock assessment by the International Scientific Committee Pacific Bluefin Tuna Working Group found that the bluefin tuna population has dropped more than 96 percent from historical numbers.

To get at these chemical clues, the team of scientists asked recreational bluefin

fishermen in Southern California for a slice of their fish—a chunk of muscle about the size of two decks of cards.

By measuring the levels of radioactive cesium in the steak, the team could pick apart the new arrivals from the tuna that had been swimming in the eastern Pacific for more than a year. The team was also able to pinpoint when fish of different sizes left the waters around Japan. Most bluefin that make the thousands-of-miles swim to the North American coast start their journey in June.

"As far as I know, that's the first detailed information on when the fish leave Japan," said Shana Miller, science adviser to The Pew Charitable Trusts. Although Miller agrees that this data will be helpful to fishery managers in the future, she argues that there is enough data available now for fisheries managers to take steps to prevent further declines. "We're dealing with a severely overfished species that has little management in place right now," she said.

Fishermen catch more than 90 percent of bluefin before the fish have a chance to grow big enough to breed. Miller argues that science-based catch limits can make a big impact in reviving this economically important fish by giving enough fish on both sides of the ocean the chance to reproduce.

Do Your Part as you prepare for prom

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS



Temperatures are on the rise. The school year is starting to wind down.

That means prom season is heating up. Whether you're a high schooler or prom parent, Do Your Part as you plan what to wear, the accessories you'll need, where to dine, and how to get around. A few smarter choices will help you spend less and look fabulous while treading a bit lighter on the planet.

DRESS DECISIONS

For most prom-goers it's all about the dress. And lucky you, there are more green options than ever. Consider consignment shops around town. Many have fashionable dresses that have only been worn once and for an unbelievable price. You

can also make one-of-a-kind vintage finds. Another smart option is your local Goodwill. Dresses there are incredibly inexpensive and some Goodwill Stores even feature prom sales with dresses donated by boutiques. Now, if you know exactly which designer dress you want to don this year, let technology help you be green. There are several online designer dress sites where you can rent the gown of your dreams. The cost is a fraction of the retail price and you don't have to fear wearing it once and letting it go to waste in your closet. And, don't forget to donate your past prom dresses. Donate My Dress and The Cinderella Project are just two worthwhile organizations to consider.

ACCESSORIES, ACCESSORIES, ACCESSORIES

So, you've got the dress. What

about the accessories? There are the handbags to consider. Just like the dress, there are plenty of online spots that feature bag rentals for any budget. And the rental market doesn't end there. You can add on earrings, bracelets, and necklaces. Returns are usually super simple. Another accessory that is synonymous with prom is the corsage. Check with your favorite florist to use locally grown, in season, and organic flowers in your corsage or boutonniere. This is a much better option than using traditional roses that are usually imported from other countries and treated with large amounts of pesticides.

RESPONSIBLE RESERVATIONS & GETTING AROUND

The next big question is, where should you eat? Do something a bit different when you dine pre-prom this year. LocalHar-

vest.org and DineGreen.com will both help you research restaurants specializing in locally grown foods. As for getting to the restaurant of your choice—consider carpooling. Whether you rent a limo or ride together in another way, it beats out taking several vehicles to each location.

Remember, half the fun of the prom comes before you even arrive at the big dance! So Do Your Part as you get ready, dine out, and arrive at the biggest high school event of the year. Also, check out DoYourPart.com/Columns for additional resources on how to green your prom.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of Do Your Part: A practical guide for everyday green living available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com

Life & Style

Experts: Chances of recovering Boston art good

BOSTON (AP)—Now that authorities believe they know who stole \$500 million worth of art from Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in the largest art heist in U.S. history, what are the chances they'll actually recover the stolen works by Rembrandt, Vermeer and Manet after 23 years?

Surprisingly good, art recovery experts say.

Christopher Marinello, general counsel for The Art Loss Register, a London-based organization that keeps a database of stolen and missing artwork, recently recovered a Matisse oil painting stolen from a Stockholm museum in 1987.

"A quarter of a century is not that unusual for stolen paintings to be returned," Marinello said. "Eventually they will resurface. Somebody will rat somebody else out. It's really only a matter of time."

The FBI announced Monday that it knows but is not disclosing the identities of two men who posed as police officers and stole 13 works of art from the museum in 1990. The theft remains the largest art heist in

U.S. history.

Bob Wittman, a retired FBI agent from Philadelphia who specialized in art crimes, said he helped recover a set of seven Norman Rockwell paintings stolen from a Minneapolis museum in 1977. The paintings were found in Rio de Janeiro in 2001. Wittman said he also helped recover an original copy of the Bill of Rights that had been stolen more than 130 years earlier.

"I think that the chances are that if they still exist, there's a 95 percent chance they are going to get the paintings back," Wittman said.

"At some point, they are going to come back to market. Whoever is holding them illicitly is going to get old. An heir or a child is going to find it and try to sell it."



This undated file photograph released by the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum shows the painting "Chez Tortoni," by Manet, one of more than a dozen works of art stolen in the early hours of March 18, 1990.

The FBI, which made its announcement on the 23rd anniversary of the heist, also launched a new publicity campaign aimed at generating tips on the whereabouts of the art-

work, including a dedicated FBI website on the heist, video postings on FBI social media sites and digital billboards in Connecticut and Philadelphia. They also re-emphasized a \$5 million

reward being offered by the museum for information leading to the return of the artwork.

Damon Katz, a spokesman for the FBI's Boston office, said tips were already coming in Tuesday.

He would not say how many.

"We are analyzing them and we will act on those as appropriate," he said. "The goal is not to generate the largest number of tips, but to generate the best tips that will lead us to the art."

Richard DesLauriers, an FBI agent in Boston, said investigators believe the thieves belonged to a criminal organization based in New England and the mid-Atlantic states. They believe the art was taken to Connecticut and the Philadelphia region in the years after the theft and offered for sale in Philadelphia a decade ago. After that, the FBI does not know what happened to the artwork, DeLauriers said.

Empty frames still hang on the walls of the museum as a reminder of the loss of precious works of art, including "The Concert" by Johannes Vermeer and several Rembrandts, "A Lady and Gentleman in Black" and "Storm on the Sea of Galilee," his only seascape.

The statute of limitations has expired on crimes associated with the actual theft. But prosecutors say anyone who knowingly possesses or conceals the stolen art could still face charges.

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—"Sitting there in the park," Philip Roth wrote in "Goodbye Columbus," "I felt a deep knowledge of Newark, an attachment so rooted that it could not help but branch out into affection."

On the novelist's 80th birthday Tuesday, Newark returned the sentiment to one of its most celebrated natives.

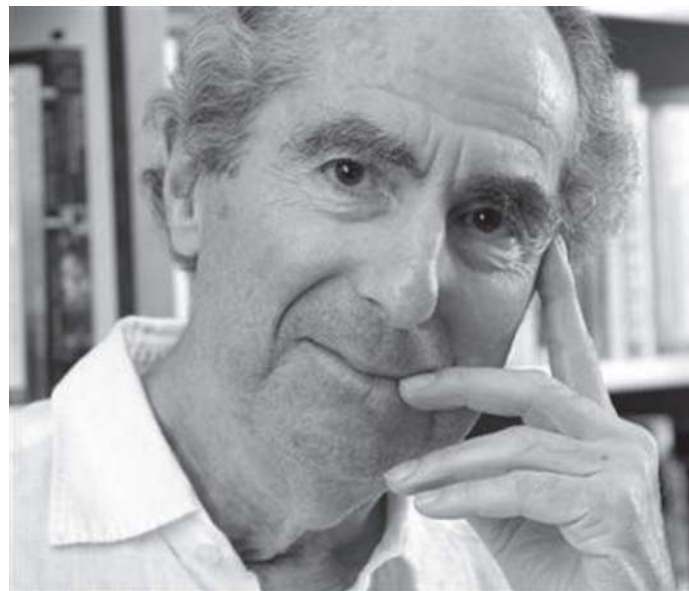
The city that played a seminal role in many of Roth's novels played host to a series of events honoring Roth, including a conference of scholars, a bus tour, an exhibit of Roth's personal photos and a birthday party Tuesday night at the Newark Museum, where Roth cuts a cake made to look like a stack of books.

"Newark has been to Roth's writing what whaling is to Melville," said Rosemary Steinbaum, dean of instruction at Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy in Livingston, N.J., and a photo exhibit curator.

"Philip Roth: An Exhibit of Photos from a Lifetime" opened Tuesday at the Newark Public Library. Many of Roth's personal photographs are featured: Roth and his brother eating pop-sicles at the beach as children, Roth acting in plays at Bucknell University, surrounded by friends including the writer William Styron, and photos of Roth's brother, parents and grandparents.

Roth was born and raised in Newark's Weequahic neighborhood, populated almost entirely by Jewish families at the time. Roth would bike back from its library with books in tow and attended

Roth's 80th cause for Newark, NJ, celebration



In this Sept. 8, 2008 file photo, author Philip Roth poses for a photo in the offices of his publisher Houghton Mifflin, in New York.

the neighborhood's art deco high school. The city features prominently in his novels, including "American Pastoral," "Nemesis," "The Plot Against America" and "Portnoy's Complaint."

The Philip Roth Society held a symposium called Roth(at)80, and many members who dedicated careers to studying Roth, but never visited Newark, piled on three tour buses that wound through the city streets.

Liz Del Tufo, president of the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee, started giving Roth bus tours in 2005. She and the society were instrumental in getting Roth to celebrate his birthday in Newark.

"Whenever Liz Del Tufo calls him (Roth), which is at

least monthly, he says, 'Am I 80 yet?'" said Roth's biographer, Blake Bailey.

Del Tufo narrated a tour that was as much a history of Roth's life in Newark as it was an account of the city's past. Each time the bus entered a neighborhood or passed a building that played a role in one of Roth's works, the bus stopped and Del Tufo asked a passenger to read a pertinent passage.

After leaving Newark Museum blocks away, the bus pulled over on Washington Street, parallel to Washington Park.

"Down Washington Street, behind me, was the Newark Museum—I could see it without even looking; two oriental vases in front like spittoons for a rajah,

and next to it the little annex to which we had traveled on special buses as schoolchildren," a man read in part from "Goodbye Columbus." Passengers applauded when he finished.

The bus continued past the Essex County Courthouse, mentioned in "I Married a Communist," and went down Clinton Avenue. It drove through the Olmsted-designed Weequahic Park and Roth's old neighborhood, where large homes gave way to more modest structures as the bus chugged up a hill.

It pulled over in front of Weequahic High School and everyone aboard was asked to

recite a chant from "Portnoy's Complaint."

"Ikey, Mikey, Jake and Sam We're the boys who eat no ham

We play football, we play soccer -

And we keep matzos in our locker!

Aye, aye, aye Weequahic High!"

Passengers burst out laughing and got off the bus to snap photos in front of the high school. Blocks later they bounded off the bus to see Roth's childhood home, now a yellow-sided structure with faux rocks on the front and a small sign proclaim-

ing it a historic site.

"It's remarkable how many monuments from his literature are here," said Michael Kimmage, a Roth scholar at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Sarah Shieff, a professor of Jewish literature at the University of Waikato in New Zealand, flew to Newark for the event with her husband. Roth's descriptions of places were foreign to Shieff, a New Zealand native, and seeing Newark was a way to round out her study.

"This is a way of putting it in three dimensions," she said. "He writes his settings incredibly vividly. It's a bonus to see them in the flesh."

'Sunday Kind of Love' singer Fran Warren dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fran Warren, whose 1947 recording of "A Sunday Kind of Love" was one of the classic hits of the big band era, has died.

Alan Eichler, a spokesman for the singer-actress, said Tuesday that Warren died March 4 of natural causes at her home in Brookfield, Conn. She was 87.

Warren's career spanned more than 50 years with hits that included the Tony Martin duet "I Said My Pajamas (and Put On My Prayers)," the Lisa Kirk duet "Dearie" and "It's Anybody's Heart." Her films roles included "Abbott and Costello Meet Captain Kidd."

She frequently appeared and performed on the talk



In this March 21, 1950 file photo, actor-comedian Milton Berle, left, master of ceremonies Ed Sullivan, singer Fran Warren, Everett Sloane and Mel Allen pose with their Michael awards at the First Annual Awards and Dinner of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for Television and Radio in New York City.

shows of Johnny Carson, Mike Douglas, Merv Griffin and Steve Allen.

Warren is survived by two daughters, a son-in-law and two nieces.

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The Incredible Burt Wonderstone

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Mon through Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Cast: Steve Carell, Olivia Wilde, Steve Buscemi
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A down on his luck Las Vegas magician (Steve Carell) joins back up with an old partner (Steve Buscemi) to take on a new school illusionist (Jim Carrey in this comedy from director Don Scardino. Olivia Wilde and James Gandolfini co-star.



Oz The Great and Powerful 3D

Friday		7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	7:00	
Mon through Thurs		7:00	

Cast: James Franco, Rachel Weisz, Michelle Williams
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG



Oz The Great and Powerful 2D

Friday	4:00	
Saturday	4:00	
Sunday	4:00	
Mon through Thurs	4:00	

Cast: James Franco, Rachel Weisz, Michelle Williams
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG



Jack The Giant Slayer 3D

Friday		7:20
Saturday	1:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	7:20
Mon through Thurs		7:20

Cast: Nicholas Hoult, John Kassir, Ewan McGregor
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13



Jack The Giant Slayer 2D

Friday	4:20	9:50
Saturday	4:20	9:50
Sunday	4:20	
Mon through Thurs	4:20	

Cast: Nicholas Hoult, John Kassir, Ewan McGregor
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13



The Last Exorcism II

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:30
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Mon through Thurs		4:15	7:15	

Cast: Ashley Bell, Julia Garner, Spencer Treat Clark
Genre: Horror, Thriller • Rated PG 13



21 and Over

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Mon through Thurs		4:25	7:25	

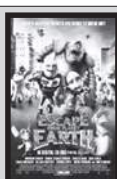
Cast: Justin Chon, Miles Teller, Jonathan Keltz
Genre: Comedy • Rated R



Snitch

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Mon through Thurs		4:10	7:10	

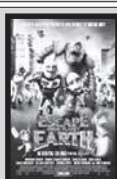
Cast: Dwane Johnson, Benjamin Bratt, Barry Pepper
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13



Escape From Planet Earth 3D

Friday		4:30	9:45
Saturday		4:30	9:45
Sunday		4:30	
Mon through Thurs		4:30	

Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG



Escape From Planet Earth 2D

Friday		7:30
Saturday	1:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	7:30
Mon through Thurs		7:30

Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG

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Review: 'Admission' a huge waste of Fey and Rudd

By CHRISTY LEMIRE
AP MOVIE CRITIC

What should be a hilarious, long-overdue pairing of two hugely likable, superstar comedians ends up being a major disappointment with "Admission."

As much film and television work as they do individually, Tina Fey and Paul Rudd surprisingly never have worked together. In theory, her smart, zingy persona should mesh beautifully with his easygoing goofiness—or their shared dynamic should bounce, or snap, or have some sort of life to it. Instead, Paul Weitz's direction of Karen Croner's script is tonally erratic: too fast in spots and too much of a slog in others.

It certainly doesn't help that the characters, based on Jean Hanff Korelitz's novel, feel like types without much nuance. Even reliable comic veterans like Fey and Rudd can't find much that's new or fresh in these people, and as a result they have zero chemistry with each other. That's shocking, I realize.

Fey, as a Princeton University admissions officer, is always uptight, precise and emotionally closed-off. Rudd, as the do-gooder founder of an alternative New England high school, is always free-spirited, adventurous and open-minded. Even in the fantasy world of romantic comedies where opposites attract and sparks fly, these two have no business being together; they never change each other, and that's supposed to be the source of comedy.

(Note: Spoiler alert in next paragraph.)

You may actually find yourself hoping that they'll stay



This film image released by Focus Features shows Tina Fey, left, and Paul Rudd in a scene from "Admission."

apart. (Spoiler alert! They don't.) Nonetheless, they end up falling for each other in the unlikelyst of scenarios.

Fey's Portia Nathan has been analyzing and rejecting prospective Princetonians for 16 years now, and as evidenced by her tidy office and the verbatim speech she gives when visiting the nation's top high schools, she has it down to a science. Ironically, though, she hates children—babies, to be specific—and shares a quiet, safe life with her condescending English professor boyfriend (Michael Sheen, stuck in a one-note, one-joke role).

When the dean of admissions (Wallace Shawn) announces he's retiring, Portia finds that she and a rival colleague (Gloria Reuben) are the top candidates to replace him. To distinguish herself, Portia agrees to

visit the crunchy-granola New Quest school at the urging of its creator, Rudd's John Pressman, who happens to have been a classmate of hers at Dartmouth.

Turns out, John has a particular student in mind for Portia to meet: the slightly odd but obviously brilliant Jeremiah (Nat Wolff), whom John believes is the child Portia gave up for adoption back when they were in college. (The fact that he remembers so many details from this period so vividly and that he'd track her down to act on them is creepy, but whatever.) And Jeremiah just happens to want to go to Princeton.

At the same time, Portia's longtime boyfriend unceremoniously walks out on her for another woman (in the kind of scene that only happens in the movies) so now she's free to be

with John, who ... isn't exactly right for her, either.

"Admission" awkwardly grasps for serious feelings within all these wacky deceptions and manipulations and forces heavy, third-act emotions on us that it hasn't earned. Some of the few moments of heft come courtesy of a radiant Lily Tomlin as Portia's mother, a maverick feminist and intellectual who has forged her own notion of what it means to be both a woman and a parent, and urges her daughter to do the same. Merely the idea of Tomlin playing Fey's mom is exciting, but watching these two strong, groundbreaking comedians share the screen is one of the film's few real joys.

And seeing the college application process behind the scenes—the lobbying, the favors, the weeding-out—is actually kinda fascinating if this is indeed how it all goes down.

English edition of book by Pope Francis out in May

NEW YORK (AP)—An English-language edition of a 2010 book co-authored by Jorge Mario Bergoglio, now Pope Francis, will be published in May.

Image Books, a "Catholic-interest" imprint of Random House Inc., announced Tuesday that "On Heaven and Earth: Pope Francis on Faith, Family and the Church in the 21st Century" will come out May 7. The book was co-written by Rabbi Abraham Skorka, Rector of the Latin American Rabbinical Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

According to Image Books, "On Heaven and Earth" includes discussions between the two religious leaders on everything from atheism and euthanasia to abortion and globalization. A Spanish-language edition

'Homeland' writer-producer Bromell dies at 66

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A representative for Henry Bromell, an executive producer for the TV series "Homeland," says Bromell has died.

Bromell's longtime agent and friend, Peter Benedek, said Bromell died Monday at a Los Angeles area hospital. The cause of death may have been a heart at-



Pope Francis waves as he arrives in St. Peter's Square for his inauguration Mass at the Vatican, Tuesday, March 19, 2013.

was released in Latin America and Spain in 2010 by Random House Mondadori. Vintage Es-

panol, also a Random House imprint, will publish the Spanish edition in North America.

tack, Benedek said Tuesday.

Last year, Bromell shared in Emmy and Golden Globe best-drama awards for Showtime's "Homeland." In 1992, he won a Humanitas Prize for the TV drama "I'll Fly Away."

The 66-year-old Bromell was "an immensely talented and prolific" writer and producer,

Showtime said in a statement. His other TV credits included "Northern Exposure," "Chicago Hope," "Rubicon" and "Brotherhood."

He is survived by his wife, Sarah, and sons William and Jake, according to his agent.

Funeral plans were not immediately announced.

Condoleezza Rice writing book on democracy

NEW YORK (AP)—Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is working on a book about democracy.

Henry Holt and Company announced Tuesday that the book, currently untitled, will be published in 2015. The 58-year-old Rice has previously written or co-written a handful of policy books, along with memoirs about her family and her years in the George W. Bush administration.

Rice served as national security adviser during Bush's first term and secretary of state during his second term. She is currently a professor of political economy and political science at Stanford University, where she has taught off and on since the early 1980s.

In her new book, Rice will draw on personal and professional experiences to address such issues as self-government, immigration and education.

Lindsay Lohan booked then released as a formality

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan has a new mug shot.

The troubled 26-year-old actress turned herself in to police in California as a formality Tuesday, the day after she accepted a plea deal in her misdemeanor car crash case. A spokesman for the Santa Monica Police Department said she was booked then released.

Lohan was sentenced to spend five days in jail, but that time will be served in a locked-down rehabilitation facility. It's part of a plea deal that includes 90 days in rehab, 30 days of community labor, 18 months of psychological counseling, a fine and restitution.

Lohan pleaded no contest Monday to reckless driving and lying to police who were investigating

the accident involving the actress in June along the Pacific Coast Highway. A charge of obstructing an officer was dropped.

Lohan also was found in violation of her probation in a 2011 necklace theft and sentenced to 180 days in jail. However, she can avoid that jail time if she complies with the conditions of her plea deal, which extends her probation for two years.

Superior Court Judge James R. Dabney set another hearing for May 2, when the court must be given proof of Lohan's enrollment in a treatment program.

After a pair of arrests for driving under the influence in 2007, Lohan has resolved her numerous legal issues without going to trial.



This photo provided by the Santa Monica Police Department shows the most recent booking photo of Lindsay Lohan.



Sheldon Stephens, left, accompanied by his attorney Jeff Herman, addresses a news conference, in New York, Tuesday, March 19, 2013.

Former voice of TV's Elmo faces abuse suit in Pa.

NEW YORK (AP)—A man who initially recanted sex abuse allegations against the former puppeteer of the "Sesame Street" character Elmo has sued him, alleging the entertainer lured him into drug-fueled sex when he was 16.

"I was taken advantage of by someone a lot older, and manipulated," Sheldon Stephens, who's now 24, told a Manhattan news conference on Tuesday.

He said he had met puppeteer Kevin Clash at a networking event for models and actors, and was later brought by limousine from his home in Pennsylvania to a New York apartment. There, Stephens said, Clash smoked crystal meth while giving the teenager another recreational drug.

In a federal lawsuit filed Monday in Pennsylvania, Stephens accused the 52-year-old Clash of sexual battery for childhood sexual abuse; travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct; and coercion and enticement to sexual activity. Stephens is asking for unspecified damages and

coverage of his legal expenses.

Clash's attorney, Michael Berger, said in a statement Tuesday that his client denies any wrongdoing. He said Stephens already admitted he had had an adult consensual relationship with Clash.

Three other men also are suing Clash, alleging underage sex. Clash resigned from "Sesame Street" in November.

Stephens first made the allegations last year. His lawyer, Jeff Herman, said Stephens recanted over the possibility of a settlement, but none was ever reached. Herman said his client would not discuss details of any possible agreement.

Stephens said at the news conference that he was 22 when the relationship ended. He said he only took action after watching "Sesame Street" with his young nieces.

"When I started to realize my nieces were idolizing this character, it just disgusted me inside because I knew what had happened to me," Stephens said.

Paulina Rubio judges kids' version of 'The Voice'

MIAMI (AP)—A children's version of "The Voice" is arriving to the U.S. "en español" with Mexican pop star Paulina Rubio as one of the coaches.

Telemundo Media named Rubio on Monday as the first of three music coaches on the network's upcoming singing competition "La Voz Kids," slated to premiere in the spring on Telemundo.

The new spinoff of the hit singing competition will feature 7- to

14-year-old contestants. The winner will receive a recording contract with Universal Music and a scholarship.

Rubio already coached "La Voz... México", the edition of the show produced in her home country. The singer said she looks forward to a new format "that will open the door to the new generation of artists."

The other two coaches were soon to be announced, the network said.



In this Aug. 21, 2012 file photo, Mexico's pop star Paulina Rubio flashes the hand heart symbol during a press conference in Mexico City.

Pair accused of plotting to kill singer Joss

LONDON (AP)—Prosecutors said Monday two men accused of plotting to rob and kill soul singer Joss Stone planned to decapitate her, then dump her body in a river.

The suspects, Junior Bradshaw and Kevin Liverpool, were arrested in June 2011, close to the singer's house after suspi-

cious neighbors reported them to police. They never reached her house.

Opening the case at Exeter Crown Court, prosecutor Simon Morgan told the jury that the pair, ages 32 and 35, set off from their home in Manchester with a samurai sword, knives, a hammer, black bags and gloves for

Stone's house in Devon. The men were allegedly part of a gang that hatched the plot, but other members could not be traced.

Morgan said that handwritten notes found in the suspects' car made reference to "decapitate," another read "Jocelyn RIP" and a further note said: "Once Jocelyn's dead ... find a river to dump her."

The motive for the plot wasn't clear, but Morgan said the men may have targeted Stone for her money or because they disliked her links with the royal family.

The notes indicated that the pair disapproved of Stone being invited to Prince William and Kate Middleton's wedding in 2011, he said.

The defendants deny all charges. The trial continues.

Daughter's decision to end pregnancy torments mom

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My 22-year-old daughter became pregnant from a guy she had dated only a few months, but never seriously. After weeks of wondering what she was going to do, she decided that terminating her pregnancy was the best thing to do considering she has limited income and still lives with me. I, however, am pro-life, although I do feel that in cases of rape or incest it is acceptable. My daughter knows how I feel about this. I supported her in her decision, but did not agree with it.

Abby, I have taken this really hard. I have cried every day since she had the abortion, and I'm torturing myself thinking this is my fault because I went against everything I believe in when I supported her in her decision.

Why am I beating myself up about this? Is it because she's my daughter, because I am pro-life or both? How can I stop blaming myself for her decision?

TORTURED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR TORTURED: The decision about whether or not to terminate the pregnancy wasn't yours to make; it was your daughter's. Being pro-life, you have your own convictions, but you acted as a loving parent should—you supported your child. If you feel you could benefit from counseling to help you through this, ask your doctor for a referral.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are having a disagreement and I'm wondering if you could weigh in. We keep a handgun hidden in a locked safe in our bedroom. (An access code is required to open it.) We also have a 1 1/2-year-old daughter.

On the recommendations of a co-worker, we recently hired a baby sitter whom we used for an evening while we attended a party. She seemed like a nice young lady.

My problem is, when she arrived, my husband immediately announced that we had a gun upstairs. He felt it was her "right" to know. I think, because the gun isn't accessible, the information was useless to her and actually may have put our family in danger. How do we know she won't mention it to someone who will target us for a break-in in order to steal it?

To me, having a (SECURED) firearm in our house is no one else's business but ours. What do you think?

NOT THE WILD WEST

DEAR NOT THE WILD WEST: I think you are correct. This is a subject that should have been discussed before the young woman was hired. Your husband exhibited poor judgment by sharing what should have been confidential information.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My colleagues and I are concerned about a close friend and co-worker. He insists that it's not against the law to read books while driving. He says he does it only on highways because everyone is going the same speed and direction and you only need peripheral vision.

In every other aspect of his life, this man follows the rules to the letter and is a highly respected teacher. Is it true that this is legal?

CONCERNED IN OHIO

DEAR CONCERNED: Of course not! A distracted driver who is reading books is at least as dangerous as one who is eating, texting, applying makeup, shaving or talking on a cellphone. This "highly respected" teacher doesn't have my respect; he's a menace on the highway.

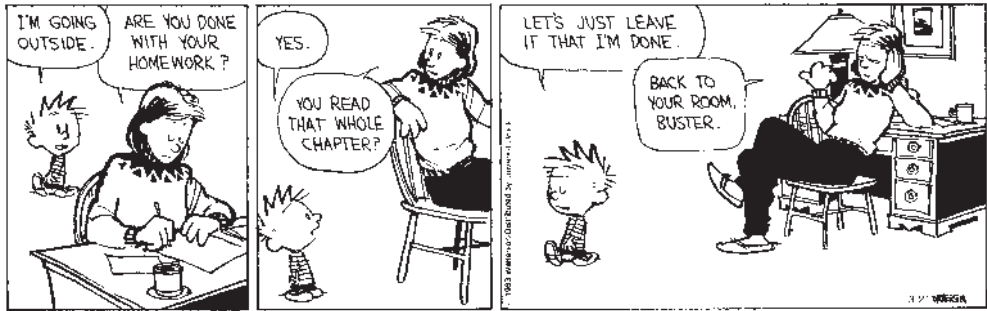
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

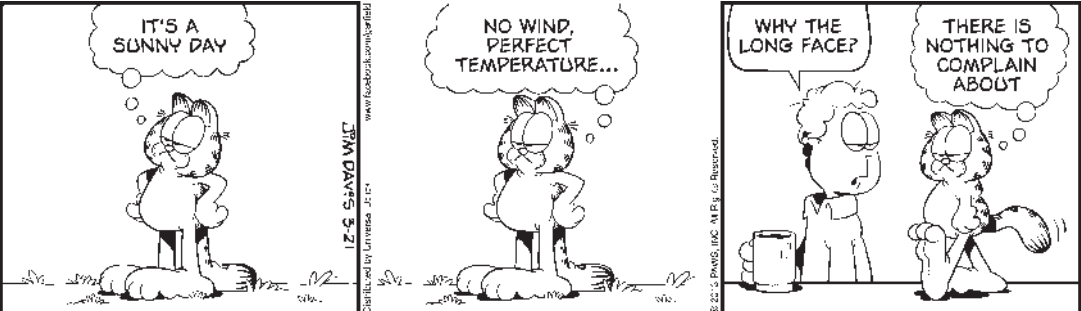
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Last few notes

5 Med. approval org.

8 Fall into a beanbag chair

12 Last write-up

13 Valentine mis-spelling

14 Actress Turner

15 Missing

16 Past

17 Spore cases

18 Pour wine

20 Time of discontent?

22 Cal's mama

23 Fresh

24 1/4 bushel

27 Not steadily

32 Vast expanse

33 Play with robots

34 Anonymous Richard

DOWN

35 Discontinue

38 Nervous

39 Type of humor

40 Candle material

42 Chemical relative

45 Discount store

49 Ms. Moore

50 Blunder

52 Green land

53 Mideast nation

54 Cartoonist Browne

55 Kvetches

56 Queue

57 Chances, for short

58 Jog

24 Next-to-last letter

25 Still, in verse

26 Role for Julie, Eartha, Lee, Michelle, Halle or Anne

28 Rapa — (Easter Island)

29 Museum pieces

30 Visibility hindrance

31 "30 Rock" star

36 White weasel

37 Catcher's place?

38 Range

41 Symbol for gold

42 "American —"

43 Big rig

44 Start over

46 Storyteller

47 Therefore

48 Criterion

51 Tear

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18				19			20	21		
			22				23			
24	25	26			27	28	29		30	31
32				33					34	
35			36	37					38	
			39				40	41		
42	43				44		45		46	47
48										
49					50	51			52	
53									54	
55										
56									57	58

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Matthew Broderick, 51; Rosie O'Donnell, 51; Gary Oldman, 55; Timothy Dalton, 69.

Happy Birthday: Take care of personal business. Making alterations to your home or living arrangements will help ease stress. Taking action is fine as long as you work toward your goal. Impulsive action can lead to unsavory situations within your personal or business relationships. Listen carefully. You'll have to read between the lines. Let your intuition guide you. Your numbers are 3, 7, 13, 20, 29, 31, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't fold under pressure. Watch what everyone does and make a decision based on facts. A new beginning will bring you greater choice, but it's up to you to take the first step. Alone time will help you sort through your thoughts.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be a leader, do your thing and make your dreams come true. Helping others will enhance your reputation and give you a chance to show everyone what you can do. Show off a little. It will do you good and build your confidence.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stand back so you don't lose sight of what everyone else is up to. Put everything you know into play once you feel confident that you are in control. Consider criticism an act of jealousy. Don't underestimate the competition.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't feel the need to make a move. Impulse is the enemy, especially when it comes to your reputation. You'll find creative ways to get

what you want. Develop your skills or update your approach and revisit old clients, friends or lovers.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep everything out in the open for all to see. It's important to deliver exactly what you are promising. Additional responsibilities will be dumped in your lap if you aren't truthful. Fix up or invest in your home and personal finances.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Favors will be granted. Get involved in organizations that can help you get ahead or enhance your reputation. Relationships are on the rise, and making a promise to someone you think is special will bring high returns.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Jumping to conclusions or making assumptions will lead to trouble. You are best to concentrate on what you can do to maintain what you've worked so hard to acquire. Listen carefully to what your colleagues or superiors are saying.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Do things differently and you will draw a crowd. Believing in your skills and talent is half the battle. You will impress someone with your thoughtfulness as well as with your vision. Don't let home improvements go over budget.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It will be difficult to know which way to turn. Having too many choices or too many people interfering in your decision is likely to lead to taking on too much when you should be sizing down. Rethink your strategy.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Easy does it. You are likely to be misinterpreted if you are too hasty in the way you present your objective. Discuss how your plans will affect others and you will avoid unnecessary opposition as well as helpful suggestions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Consider your attributes. With a couple of slight changes to the way you present what you have to offer, you can turn something you enjoy doing into a prosperous endeavor.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Networking will bring good results. Engage in functions that allow you to promote a concept you have been developing. Updating your image or indulge in self-improvement projects that will boost your confidence. Love and romance should end your day.

Birthday Baby: You are helpful, friendly, and charming. You respond quickly and efficiently.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

				5						
	7	6					2	1		
	3			9				8		
			4		6					
5		4				6			2	
			5		3					
	1			4				7		
	9	3					1	5		
				7						

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/21

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	2	8	3	1	4	6	5	9
6	5	3	7	2	9	8	1	4
1	9	4	6	5	8	2	7	3
2	6	9	4	7	3	1	8	5
8	4	1	5	9	2	3	6	7
3	7	5	1	8	6	4	9	2
9	1	2	8	3	5	7	4	6
4	3	7	9	6	1	5	2	8
5	8	6	2	4	7	9	3	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/20

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MICHELIN-STARRED RESTAURANTS IN THE U.S. Sol: 9 letters

J	P	M	A	R	E	A	C	Y	R	U	S	A	C	R
O	S	L	R	G	E	R	T	H	I	L	L	I	O	A
J	T	T	U	N	A	E	J	T	A	D	R	B	Z	B
O	D	O	A	M	R	F	O	U	E	C	U	I	L	N
G	R	R	G	R	E	M	N	A	L	C	Z	U	U	I
E	O	O	A	H	A	D	F	E	H	A	C	A	E	
O	F	N	C	T	R	I	N	O	C	E	P	U	S	W
R	R	A	O	Y	A	I	N	Q	R	A	N	A	T	M
G	E	M	N	M	L	I	U	E	N	R	Y	R	A	M
E	N	D	M	O	A	E	L	R	E	O	A	H	B	U
S	C	A	H	L	R	E	S	V	E	Y	S	T	S	L
R	H	C	I	E	S	D	A	K	E	O	U	R	E	E
E	I	N	L	E	O	T	A	C	G	N	L	E	O	J
P	E	L	R	M	G	R	A	M	E	R	C	Y	S	C
A	O	D	T	E	K	R	A	M	E	N	O	T	O	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Manual
The WONDERWORD MILLIGRAM SERIES can be played by sending a text message to 571-868-8686 (50¢ per text) or by calling 1-877-868-8686 (9¢ per minute, 18+ only). A King Features service, NYC.

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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN
MARIANAS
HOUSING
CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,
-v-
ESTEBAN SARALU
BUEKIS and
KIKIKO K. BUEKIS,
Defendants.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 15, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 1243, situated in Kagman III, Phase IV, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 948 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check No. 011 G 23, dated December 9, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 96-2566, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 5, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 11th day of March, 2013:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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CLOSING DATE: MARCH 22, 2013

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- WITH MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE
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CLOSING DATE: MARCH 23, 2013

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- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- In-Service train with Baxter Phoenix Machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater Bicarbonate distribution system.
- Flexible with time schedule.

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up applications at **St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc.**, in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline for submission will be on March 22, 2013. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2905 ext. 124.

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Unbeaten Dominicans win WBC, 3-0



SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Tony Pena passed around the shiny trophy and let all of his players offer their besitos, or little kisses. Robinson Cano passed around a phone as his teammates took turns receiving congratulations from Dominican Republic President Danilo Medina.

"We appreciate that from the president," Jose Reyes said. "This win is all about the Dominican Republic. They were hungry waiting for this moment, and we did it."

The Dominican Republic has its World Baseball Classic crown, at last.

Cheers of "Dominicana! Dominicana!" rang out through the rain at AT&T Park all the way to the lively streets of Santo Domingo.

Edwin Encarnacion hit a two-run double in the first inning that held up, and the Dominicans capped a dominant, unbeaten run through the WBC with a 3-0 win against Puerto Rico for the championship Tuesday night.

"Tomorrow will be a national holiday," said Moises Alou, the proud Dominican general manager. "It was a tremendous win."

Cano earned MVP honors, Erick Aybar added an RBI double to back winner Samuel Deduno, and the demonstrative Dominican righty threw his arms into the air in delight after watching a run-saving defensive gem by center fielder Alejandro De Aza in a tough fifth.

The Dominican fans—fanaticos, indeed—didn't let the Bay Area's wet weather keep them from dancing in the stands, waving flags and tooting horns. Flags became makeshift ponchos.

It was fitting, too, perhaps, considering the World Series champion Giants clinched the NL pennant against the Cardinals in a downpour on this very field last fall.

Some 50,000 more supporters gathered to watch on televisions inside and outside of Estadio Quisqueya in the Dominican capital city.

"We want to enjoy every single moment, because we don't know if this group will be together again. I doubt it," Dominican manager Tony Pena said.



The Dominican Republic's Jose Reyes, center, celebrates with teammates after beating Puerto Rico in the championship game of the World Baseball Classic in San Francisco, Tuesday, March 19, 2013.

Now, the Dominicans get their long-awaited fiesta. A party they figured to have in 2009, when the Netherlands spoiled the plan by beating them twice for a stunning first-round exit.

After Fernando Rodney struck out Luis Figueroa to end it, the Dominicans rushed the mound—each player waving his own flag. Well, Rodney held up his lucky plantain that served him well for the second straight day. He won't eat this platano, which he said "is going to be my second trophy."

"This is my gold medal," he said. "It will be my black diamond, because it's changing color. I kept telling everybody to relax and not to worry about (the pressure)."

The Dominicans (8-0) won it in the city where countrymen Felipe, Jesus and the late Matty Alou made history in 1963 when they appeared in the same Giants outfield for several games. Moises Alou is the son of former San Francisco skipper, Felipe.

No matter their team, Caribbean

had so much to cheer in the championship of a tournament missing the star-studded American team yet again. The U.S. failed to reach the final for the third time in as many WBCs.

And Puerto Rico eliminated two-time reigning Classic champion Japan with a 3-1 victory Sunday night to make in all-Caribbean final.

This game gave new meaning to the idea of a Caribbean championship.

Deduno followed up a fine outing in a win against the Americans last Thursday with another strong performance that will send him back to the Minnesota Twins with some nice momentum.

Deduno struck out five in five scoreless innings, allowing two hits and walking three to finish with a 0.69 ERA for the tournament. And Rodney struck out two and finished for his seventh save as the bullpen closed out this special run with 25 2-3 scoreless innings. The relievers didn't allow a run after the fourth inning of their first-round victory against Puerto Rico on March

10 in San Juan.

In the top of the fifth, the grounds crew scurried out to rake the mound after it became slippery in the rain and Deduno walked Alex Rios on five pitches to lead off the inning.

After Carlos Rivera flied out, De Aza ran down Andy Gonzalez's long fly to the gap in left-center and made a reaching snag at the warning track with his back to the infield.

Deduno then walked Jesus Feliciano. Pena paid the pitcher a mound visit but stuck with him, and Deduno struck out Angel Pagan swinging after falling behind 2-0. Deduno pumped his fists again as he charged off the mound and was surrounded by celebratory teammates.

In the bottom half, De Aza did it with his bat. He snapped an 0-for-12 stretch when he laid down a perfect bunt single toward third.

The Dominicans became the first unbeaten WBC champion, beating Team Puerto Rico for the third time in this Classic.

And now they earn the distinction of world champion, too—the first time in WBC history.

Cano had a big hand in it.

The New York Yankees star finished his sensational Classic batting .469 (15 for 32) with two home runs, six RBIs, six runs scored and two doubles. The 15 hits are a WBC record. He also earned MVP honors in each of the first two rounds. Encarnacion finished with six WBC RBIs.

After drawing a pair of intentional walks a night earlier, Cano had another in the first inning against loser Giancarlo Alvarado.

The Puerto Rican right-hander surrendered Encarnacion's double two pitches later, and was done after one shaky inning featuring 22 pitches and only 10 strikes.

Hiram Burgos relieved and struck out five in 4 2-3 innings.

"We didn't have a lot of big names," Puerto Rico manager Edwin Rodriguez said. "The people who were here wanted to be here. They had a mission, and that was to give everything. I think that's an example of what can be accomplished when you have interest and you really put your passion toward a cause."

After Miguel Tejada started at third base and Hanley Ramirez played designated hitter a night earlier in a 4-1 semifinal win against the Netherlands, Ramirez returned to third and Aybar was back in the lineup at DH. Tejada replaced the Dodgers' Ramirez at third in the sixth and made a diving catch in the bullpen area in which he landed hard on his left side and came up grimacing.

Ramirez was lifted because he jammed his thumb lunging for a groundball. Moises Alou said Ramirez would be examined further.

Pena's move paid off as Aybar doubled and singled and Ramirez added a base hit in the winning effort.

"I'll tell you one thing: Tonight we're going to celebrate, tomorrow we're going to celebrate, and Thursday we're going to worry about spring training," Cano said.

Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig was among those to attend the game—available on television to 440 million households worldwide in 200 countries and territories, and in 15 languages—that drew 35,703 fans on a cool, drizzly March night at AT&T Park.



DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—Matthew Dellavedova's first shot from behind the arc was right on target. So was the next one less than a minute later.

Saint Mary's career scoring leader had finally found his touch at tournament time.

Dellavedova emerged from a deep shooting slump by scoring 22 points on Tuesday night, and the Gaels got off to a good start in their second straight NCAA tournament appearance, beating Middle Tennessee 67-54 in the First Four.

Saint Mary's (28-6) makes a quick trip to Auburn Hills, Mich., to play sixth-seeded Memphis on Thursday.

And the Gaels can thank their point guard, who is back in the flow. He'd been only 1 of 18 from behind the arc coming into the game, though no one would know it by the way that first one went in.

"There was no sigh of relief," Dellavedova said. "Somebody had told me that I was 1 for 18 in my last three (games). That didn't even enter my head. I've always got confidence the next one's going down."

Saint Mary's beats Middle Tenn in First Four

Saint Mary's, a No. 11 seed, is making back-to-back NCAA tournament appearances for the first time in its history. The Gaels were a 10th seed when they reached the round of 16 in 2010 before losing to Baylor. Not so good last year, when they dropped their opening game to Purdue 72-69 as a No. 7 seed.

With four starters back and Dellavedova handling the ball and making the biggest shots, the Gaels were too much for Middle Tennessee (28-6), which was making its first NCAA tournament appearance in 24 years.

Credit Dellavedova for making a difference, as he has all season. The point guard went 7 of 14 from the field, including 5 of 7 behind the arc, and had four assists and six rebounds.

"When he does that, he may be the best point guard in college basketball, when he shoots the ball like that," Middle Tennessee coach Kermit Davis said.

Tweety Knight led Middle Tennessee with 16 points. The Blue Raiders went only 4 of 12 from behind the arc, hitting

one fewer 3-pointer than Dellavedova.

With those four starters back, Saint Mary's is looking for one of its best finishes yet. The Gaels did pretty much what they wanted all season long, except for one thing: Beating rival Gonzaga. Saint Mary's lost only three times in its last 22 games, all three times to the Bulldogs.

Fortunately for the Gaels, they put a lot of space between themselves and the Zags this week. No. 1 Gonzaga snagged the top seed in the West Regional and is playing in Salt Lake City. The Gaels get to stay in the Midwest for a while.

Middle Tennessee counted it a breakthrough just to be playing in the First Four—the Blue Raiders hadn't been there since 1989.

They won the Sun Belt's regular-season title and were expected to win the tournament and their league's automatic bid, but were upset in the semifinals, ending a 17-game winning streak. They had to sweat out a few days before finding out that the

NCAA selection committee picked them over defending champion Kentucky and other basketball blue bloods for an at-large bid.

One main reason: Consistency, especially on the road. The Blue Raiders didn't lose two games in a row all season until their last two tournament games.

Dellavedova set the tone early, and put Middle Tennessee in a hole. He had a pair of 3s as well as a steal and a layup, helping Saint Mary's pull ahead 13-9. After his second 3-pointer fell, Davis called a timeout to get the Blue Raiders reset on defense.

That didn't faze Dellavedova, though. He hit a floater in the lane, passed to Brad Waldow for a dunk, then drew a foul and made a pair of free throws during an 11-2 run that closed the first half and gave Saint Mary's a 29-20 lead.

"We're not going to win games like this if Matt doesn't shoot it well, or shoot it decent," Saint Mary's coach Randy Bennett said. "He's going to play whether he makes shots or not. But

if he makes shots, it gives us a chance to separate. If he didn't make shots, the game would have gone to the wire.

"But he made them."

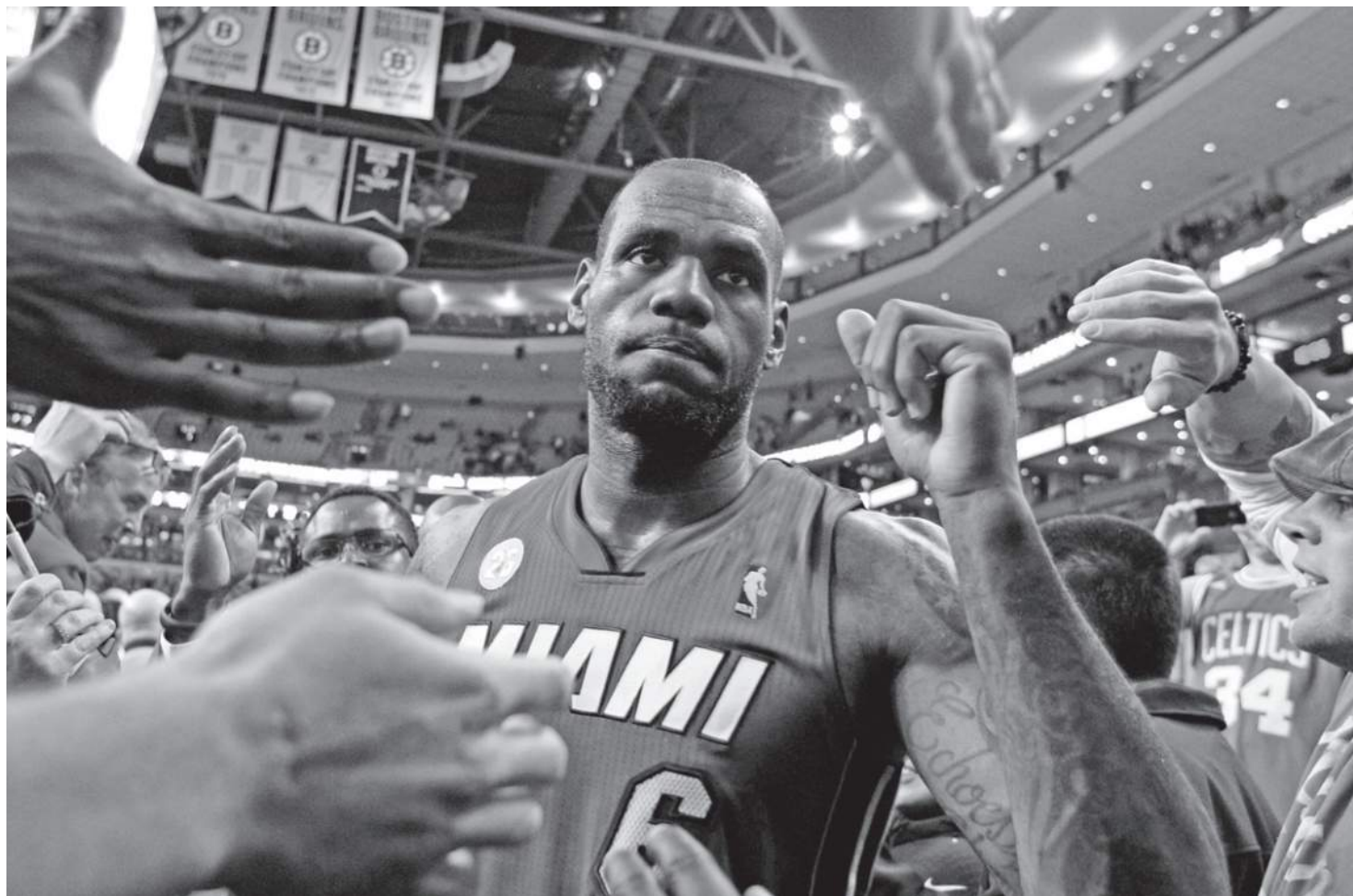
The Blue Raiders repeatedly missed close-up shots and managed only two free throws in the final 6 minutes, shooting 32 percent from the field overall in the half.

Dellavedova showed he was comfortable in the big moments, pumping up teammates with a pat or fist bump and slicing into the lane and pulling the defense to him like a magnet. He was part of Australia's backcourt in the 2012 Olympics in London, and it showed.

Dellavedova hit a pair of long 3s for a 39-28 lead early in the second half. Middle Tennessee pushed the pace and got its first significant run of the game, a 7-0 spurt that cut it to 41-38 with 12:38 to go.

Dellavedova had a 2-minute break on the bench to rest, then came back and hit his fifth 3-pointer of the game, helping the Gaels pull ahead 54-42 with 6 minutes to go. Middle Tennessee never got closer than nine points the rest of the way.

Path to 33 might not be that daunting for Heat



Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) celebrates with fans as he walks off the court after their NBA basketball game against the Boston Celtics in Boston, Monday, March 18, 2013.

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



LeBron James and the Miami Heat are about to play another game in Cleveland.

Yawn.

That's what a 23-game winning streak will do for a team.

It mutes even the LeBron-Goes-Home-Again hype.

Someday the Heat will lose another basketball game. Maybe even Wednesday, when the reigning NBA champions drop by James' old neighborhood to take on James' old team, which happens to be decimated by injuries right now.

Still, could happen. Almost did in Boston on Monday night, save for James' game-winning jumper in the final seconds after Miami rallied from 17- and 13-point deficits to squeak past the Celtics 105-103.

But given how they wrapped up their latest "W" and what lies ahead, it may no longer be far-fetched to think that the record of 33 straight victories set by the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers is within Miami's grasp.

"It means a lot," James said after the Boston game. "I know the history of the game. To be sitting in second place right now ... for us to be there and doing it in the way we want to do it, it means a lot."

It also means a lot that Miami won't be visiting many playoff-bound teams any time soon. Five of their next six games are against teams with the worst records this season.

So, grab some popcorn and some pop and settle in to watch where this remarkable run ends up.

Here's a breakdown of the potential Road to 34:

At Cleveland (22-45)

While it will surely be emotional—

after all, James is coming home, again—Miami would have to simply lay an egg to lose on Wednesday. The Cavs are incredibly banged up and out of the playoff race. Kyrie Irving is out, Anderson Varejao's season is over and on Tuesday, Cleveland revealed that guard Dion Waiters may need surgery to repair a problem in his left knee.

Yes, the Cavaliers nearly knocked off the Heat in Miami on Feb. 24, but Waiters and Irving combined for 43 points in that upset bid. They'll combine for zero on Wednesday.

Heat victory odds: Excellent.

At Detroit (23-46), Friday.

Miami has lost one game at home since mid-December and returns to face a Pistons team that has currently lost nine straight games. Brandon Knight is hurting, and probably still reeling from that De-Andre Jordan dunk incident when he was plowed over in the lane against the Los Angeles Clippers.

If there's a silver lining for the Pistons right now, what James did to Boston's Jason Terry on a dunk Monday night may have ensured what happened to Knight becomes a distant memory.

Heat victory odds: Excellent.

At Charlotte (15-52), Sunday.

The worst team in the NBA. Name five Bobcats. OK, name three Bobcats. Unless Michael Jordan himself plays ...

Heat victory odds: Above excellent.

At Orlando (18-49), March 25.

Here's the first real potential for a slip-up. The Heat are 2-0 against the Magic this season, those two wins coming by a combined THREE points. And it's on the road, in a back-to-back scenario. Miami has excelled on the second night of back-to-backs all year, but the Magic always get

riled up for the Heat.

Heat victory odds: Average.

At Chicago (36-30), March 27.

Imagine the possibilities. A Bulls team trying to stay in the fight for home-court advantage in the first round of the East playoffs, facing Miami—which provokes more lusty boos in Chicago than perhaps anywhere else—and maybe, just maybe, with Derrick Rose back in the lineup by then?

Chicago has beaten Miami already this season, doing so on the Heat home floor. And while no opponent likes the Heat, the Bulls seem to have particular disdain for them, perhaps still ticked off over how James, Chicago native Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh all decided to pass on a move to the Windy City during that ballyhooed summer of 2010.

Heat victory odds: Fair.

At New Orleans (22-46), March 29.

Worst record in the Western Conference, and not even that good at home.

Heat victory odds: Excellent.

At San Antonio (51-16), March 31.

The Heat would be going for No. 30 in San Antonio, and even the oddsmakers in Las Vegas might list them as underdogs on this night, streak or no streak.

The Spurs keep motoring along, through injury and illness and Gregg Popovich deciding to make some sort of point by resting four key players before a game in Miami—in November, not exactly a month for playoff prepping. By the way, the skeleton crew of a team playing that night in Miami nearly beat the Heat anyway.

Of the next 10 games, if the streak is going to end, this would seem like the most likely night for the loss to arrive. Either way,

it's very much a potential NBA Finals preview.

Heat victory odds: Poor.

At New York (39-26), April 2.

The Knicks are perhaps the NBA's most hard-luck team of late, having blown Miami out twice by 20 points and getting off to a sensational start, then having key players get hurt as the stretch run approaches.

Still, Knicks-Heat games are always great theater. Imagine the scene in Miami—where Knicks fans always seem to show up—if the Heat are still looking for win No. 31.

Because they're home, edge goes to the reigning champs.

Heat victory odds: Good.

At Charlotte (15-52), April 5.

Still the worst team in the NBA. Win No. 32 would be a foregone conclusion.

Heat victory odds: Excellent.

At Philadelphia (26-40), April 6.

On Final Four Saturday in college basketball, the Heat could punch their ticket to a de facto championship game. This would be for No. 33, and comes against opponents who very much play the Washington Generals to Miami's Globetrotters: Always seems to stay close, but never get it done.

Heat victory odds: Excellent.

At Milwaukee (33-32), April 9.

It's very likely that the Bucks and Heat will play in the first round of the East playoffs. But before that, if Miami is really going for No. 34 on this night, how fitting would it be that the Bucks are the opponent?

Jan. 9, 1972. The Bucks beat the Lakers 120-104, snapping that 33-game win streak. Does history repeat itself on April 9?

Stay tuned.

Nuggets beat Thunder for first 13-game win streak

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Andre Miller isn't known for voicing his opinion. So when the veteran point guard started talking, the Denver Nuggets listened.

A big performance on his 37th birthday started with an inspirational speech and finished with Miller's play doing all the talking for him.

Miller scored 13 of his season-best 20 points in the fourth quarter, and the Nuggets beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 114-104 Tuesday night for their first 13-game winning streak since joining the NBA.

"He's a coach and a teacher and a veteran, and he does it every day in a very classy way, a very quiet way," coach George Karl said. "And then he can do what he did tonight, where he can take the most talented team maybe in the NBA and be the best player on the court for the last 6 minutes of the game."

Denver took control just after halftime, building a 13-point lead and then holding off the Thunder as they got back within 102-97 after Russell Westbrook's 17-foot jumper from the left elbow with 4:08 to play. Karl put Miller back in the game at the next stoppage, and the 13-year veteran was a stabilizing force.

Miller had back-to-back jumpers as Denver answered right back with five straight points, and he went five for six at the foul line in the final 69 seconds to close it out.

Denver's previous longest winning streak since the 1976 ABA-NBA merger was 12 straight in 1982. The franchise won 15 in a row in the 1969-70 ABA season.

"It's cool. I'm sure a lot of people didn't think we would get this game, but we talked about having some pride, working hard and practicing," Miller said. "We put in a lot of work to get to this point, so at least we came out and gave a good effort and it paid off."

Ty Lawson led Denver with 25 points. Miller also had nine assists and seven rebounds in 23 effective minutes.

Kevin Durant had 34 points and Westbrook chipped in 25 for Oklahoma City, which fell to 30-5 at home this season.

Pacers 95, Magic 73

In Indianapolis, Paul George scored 19 points and Tyler Hansbrough had 14 points and 14 rebounds, leading Indiana to a rout of struggling Orlando.

The Pacers improved to 27-8 at home despite playing without second-leading scorer David West because of a sprained lower back.

Maurice Harkless and Arron Afflalo each had 10 points for the Magic, who lost their fourth straight on a night they shot just 31.8 percent from the field and coach Jacque Vaughn was ejected in a flurry of four technical fouls with 4:47 left in the third quarter.

The Pacers led 62-44 in the third and the Magic could get no closer than 12 the rest of the way.

Bucks 102, Trail Blazers 95

In Milwaukee, Brandon Jennings scored 24 points and Monta Ellis added 21 to help Milwaukee hang on for a victory over Portland.

Ellis added nine rebounds, eight assists, three steals and matched a career high with three blocks for Milwaukee, which outscored Portland 31-8 in the second quarter—the Trail Blazers' fewest points in any period this season. The Blazers shot a woeful 2 for 20 from the field in the quarter.

Portland fought back with 64 second-half points to make things interesting.

Wesley Matthews hit seven 3-pointers and scored 28 points, and LaMarcus Aldridge added 21 points and 14 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who lost for the 10th time in their last 11 road games.

Kings 116, Clippers 101

In Sacramento, California, Marcus Thornton had 25 points and Toney Douglas scored 17 of his 19 in the fourth quarter as the Sacramento Kings rallied from eight down in the final 11 minutes to stun the Los Angeles Clippers 116-101.

DeMarcus Cousins and Tyreke Evans added 17 points apiece for the Kings, who beat the Pacific Division-leading Clippers for the first time in more than two years.

They did it behind a stellar effort off the bench from Thornton and a smothering defense that held Los Angeles to just five buckets in the final quarter.

Blake Griffin had three of them and finished with 26 points, four rebounds and five assists for the Clippers. Los Angeles has lost four of its last seven.

Run Leg of 24th Tagaman Triathlon

PHOTOS By
ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The Philippines' Arland Macasieb doing his signature finish.



Husband and wife Joshua and Mamiko Berger cross the finish line together during last Saturday's 24th Tagaman Triathlon.



Tagaman Sport third overall finisher Florence Antonio blows kisses to the crowd.



Austria's Carina Wasle celebrates her runner-up finish in the women's division.



A runner gets a cup of water and sponge from volunteers as he heads out to the course.



A runner crosses paths with champions Ben Allen and Jacqui Slack along Beach Road.



Brett Sutton cruises along Beach Road.



Team Taro Sue's Charlie Sendin heads out to the run course.



A runner paces himself as he is past the halfway mark of the 15K run.



Dream Team's Jesse James starts strong in the 15K run leg.



**Unbeaten
Dominicans
win WBC, 3-0**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Path to 33
might not
be that
daunting
for Heat**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mister surpasses record in Tagaman

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan's Tyce Mister made it to the Top 3 in his age group and had a record-breaking time of 3:52:36 in last Saturday's 24th Tagaman Triathlon.

Mister's mark is about two minutes faster than his 2012 time of 3:54:40 and the second fastest in the 45 to 49 age group behind the 3:30:43 of winner and top non-pro finisher Haruo Yamakawa of Japan (3:30:43).

The long-time CNMI resident finished ahead of Yamakawa in the 2-kilometer swim leg in the waters off the Pacific Islands Club after clocking in at 34:05 against the latter's 34:15. However, Yamanaka past Mister in the 60K bike



leg with the former submitting 1:49:36 against the latter's 2:00:22. Mister then completed the race with his 1:10:09 in the 15K run, while Yamakawa logged 1:06:52. Joining Mister and Yamakawa in the Top 3 was Korea's Yu Hun Park, who tallied 3:55:58 with split times of 32:24, 1:57:36, and 1:25:58.

Besides the three entries in the 45 to 49 age group, 17 other non-pro triathletes completed last

See MISTER on Page 26

Women's doubles C finals set

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The pairs of Dianne Francisco and Jenny Lee and Lani Santos and Roxie Lazaro arranged their title showdown in the women's doubles C division in the Sun Palace Hotel Singles and Doubles Badminton Competition 2013 after prevailing in separate semis matches last weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.

Francisco and Lee notched the first finals berth after eliminating Sally In and Tina Lee in the semi-final match set on Court 2, 21-13, 21-17. Lazaro and Santos played on the same court after the first semis match and needed three games to clinch the second and last finals berth against Mykki Caracut and Havika Farro. Lazaro and Santos dropped the opening game, 19-21, but recovered in the last two, 21-13, 21-19, to steal the win.

The women's doubles C finals will be played this weekend, along with the semis matches in other divisions.

Three of the four finalists in the women's doubles C will be playing in the women's doubles C finals.

See WOMEN'S on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Lani Santos makes a return during an earlier singles game in the Sun Palace tournament at the TSL Sports Complex.

Shirley's stay perfect in Women's M-League



MP United, left, and Shirley's FC players battle for the ball at the sidelines during their game in the Women's M-League last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shirley's FC is still flawless in three games in the Women's M-League after dominating

ing MP United, 5-1, last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Shirley's, which blanked Paire, 2-0, and Tan Holdings, 5-0, for its first

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 26



Tyce Mister heads to the swim-bike transition area of the 24th Tagaman Triathlon last Saturday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United hosts Pacific Ocean Cup 2



MP United Football Club will be holding the Pacific Ocean Cup 2 this Sunday at the Garapan Elementary School Field.

The host will field its U12 team against Tan Holdings FC, Kanoa FC, and a group of players from MP United's sister club Vivid Blue Soccer School of Shizuoka, Japan.

"Vivid Blue and MPU have

been facilitating youth football exchange program for the past 5 years. Vivid Blue organized the First Pacific Ocean Cup with two other club teams from Japan last

See MP UNITED on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Vivid Blue president Sachiko Tahara, standing, second right, and D-licensed coach Kosuke Yakubo, standing, third left, pose with MP United players and coaches during a break in the sister clubs practice session at the Navy Hill Field in 2011.

